URBAN COMBAT
Guard Soldiers train under watchful eyes
PAGES 14-15
The best Soldier, Airman and noncommissioned officers for 2005 were selected and announced during calendar year 2006. These six individuals represent the best resource that the 15,000-member Ohio National Guard has to offer—men and women able and willing to respond when called and ready to do the job required of them, whether at home or overseas. Top Soldiers and Airmen for 2006 were boarded and selected earlier this year and will be featured in an upcoming issue of the Buckeye Guard.

**SOLDIER OF THE YEAR**

SPC Clinton R. Sheets
Soldier of the Year
Company A, 216th Engineer Battalion
Chillicothe

**AIRMAN OF THE YEAR**

SrA Jody A. Canapp
Airman of the Year
178th Fighter Wing
Springfield

**NCO OF THE YEAR**

SFC John C. McKee
NCO of the Year
Recruiting and Retention Battalion
Columbus

**NCO OF THE YEAR**

SSgt Samantha J. Thompson
NCO of the Year
178th Fighter Wing
Springfield

**SENIOR NCO OF THE YEAR**

MSgt Paul R. Williams
Senior NCO of the Year
269th Combat Communications Squadron
Springfield

**FIRST SERGEANT OF THE YEAR**

MSgt Steve J. Mazzi
First Sergeant of the Year
121st Air Refueling Wing
Columbus
FEATURES

7  Flying high with new initiatives
New missions, units throughout state for Ohio Air National Guard.

8  Transformation update
Ohio Army National Guard to stand up five brigade-level units.

12  Making motorcycle riding safer
Department of Public Safety, ONG team up to offer free rider’s course

21  Strength through adversity
Veteran injured while serving in Iraq utilizes his experience to make his life, other vets’ lives better.

DEPARTMENTS

2  Command focus

4  National news

6  Citizen spotlight

7  Feedback from the field

26  Buckeye briefs

28  All about people

30  Guardmember benefits

Ohio Army National Guard member SGT Samuel Cordova celebrates as he crosses the finish line during the 27th annual Columbus Marathon Oct. 15. See page 25, and also check out www.ohionationalguard.com for more articles and videos.

ON THE COVER

TRAINING FOR URBAN ENVIRONMENTS: A team leader with the Ohio Army National Guard’s 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment guides his troops through a Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain (MOUT) training scenario at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Photo by SGT Chris Jones / 40th Public Affairs Detachment. See pages 14-15.

SSG KIMBERLY SNOW / 196TH MPAD

The Buckeye Guard is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Buckeye Guard are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Departments of the Army and Air Force, or the Adjutant General of Ohio. The Buckeye Guard is published quarterly under the supervision of the Public Affairs Office, Ohio Adjutant General’s Department, 2026 W. Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Adjutant General of Ohio’s Director, Government and Public Affairs. Direct communication is authorized to the Editor, phone: (614) 336-7003; fax: (614) 336-7412, or send e-mail to buckeye@tagoh.gov. The Buckeye Guard is distributed free to members of the Ohio Army and Air National Guard and to other interested persons at their request. 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. Circulation is 19,000. Deadlines are:

Spring, January 15
Summer, April 15
Fall, July 15
Winter, October 15

This issue was printed in March 2007 by Watkins Printing, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Government under exclusive written contract with the Ohio Adjutant General’s Department. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services advertised by the U.S. Army and Air Force or Watkins Printing. Everything advertised in this publication will be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the publisher will refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

ADJUTANT GENERAL’S DEPARTMENT

State Commander-in-Chief
Gov. Ted Strickland

Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt

Assistant Adjutant General, Air

Assistant Adjutant General, Army
Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic

Command Sergeant Major, Army
Command Sgt. Maj. William L. Gilliam

Command Chief Master Sergeant, Air
Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Muncey

BUCKEYE GUARD STAFF

Director, Government and Public Affairs
Dr. Mark Wayda

Editor
Mr. Steve Toth

Editorial Assistant
Staff Sgt. Kimberly Snow

Layout and Design Support
Spc. Parker Steele

Contributors
Army/Air National Guard Photojournalists
ANG Multimedia Specialists
Unit Public Affairs Representatives

on the web @ http://www.ohionationalguard.com

Total copies printed: 19,000  Unit Cost: $.491  Publication Date: 3/07
The Ohio National Guard is being asked to accomplish more while simultaneously adapting to more changes than anytime in our 218-year history.

We are transforming to new missions and formations, performing our federal mission around the world in support of the Global War on Terrorism and preparing for and performing our state mission to defend the homeland and protecting the citizens of Ohio, all simultaneously—no easy task. We truly are America’s essential force and have established great credibility with the citizens of this nation and Ohio.

Although we have had many successes, our strength maintenance program was the highlight during the past year. The Ohio National Guard achieved an end-strength (total authorized personnel at the end of a fiscal year) of 105 percent, about 16,000 Soldiers and Airmen. The Ohio Air National Guard achieved 106 percent assigned strength (5,030 Airmen) while the Ohio Army National Guard achieved 105 percent assigned strength (10,800 Soldiers), a level that had not been that high in more than 10 years. Readiness of our units begins with assigned strength and the recruiting and leadership teams have the right focus. Our goal remains 110 percent assigned strength in every unit.

The G-RAP (Guard Recruiter Assistance Program) has been a huge success and the Ohio National Guard has more Airmen and Soldiers enrolled in the G-RAP than any other state. Airmen and Soldiers from Ohio have recruited 177 Airmen and 939 Soldiers. This equates to $1.66 million received by our members. This program greatly assisted in the achievement of our high strength posture. Thank you to each Soldier and Airman who has supported our recruiting efforts and readiness. I encourage all Soldiers and Airmen to take part.

Retention of our Soldiers and Airmen is a leadership challenge that requires our efforts daily. Retention begins on the first day of a National Guardmember’s enlistment. How our Soldiers and Airmen are integrated into the unit, mentored, counseled and coached throughout their enlistment is critical. Integration of their families into the family readiness group is also important in our retention programs.

We began to transform during the past year. The Ohio Air National Guard has endured the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), Total Force Integration Initiative, plus “broken glass” and is now postured for a bright future. New missions like the Joint Cargo Aircraft, Foreign Military Sales pilot training, increase in RED HORSE engineering assets, the Air Sovereignty Alert, and intelligence support to the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) will ensure that every Airman in the Ohio Air National Guard will have a position as we transform to the future. The Ohio Air National Guard actually increased missions as a result of these initiatives!

The Ohio Army National Guard began to transform to new formations during this past year, the largest transformation since World War II, which will ensure the modularity (standardization) of the Total Army. Over the next five years, the Department of the Army has programmed $36 billion for the Army National Guard to meet these goals.

We have dramatically improved our preparedness for our state missions of Homeland Defense and State Active Duty. This is our “No Notice, Anytime, Anywhere” mission. The Joint Force Headquarters-Ohio staff is undergoing a dramatic change to a joint adaptive battle staff that will ensure rapid command and control to surge our forces as necessary. The 73rd Troop Command was recently re-missioned to Joint Task Force 73.

This unit will provide command and control to our highest priority rapid response units that include the 52nd Civil Support Team, the National Guard Reaction Force (437th Military Police Battalion) and the new Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (155th Chemical Battalion). The capabilities that reside in the Ohio Air and Army National Guard provide unmatched capabilities to Gov. Ted Strickland and Ohio’s citizens.

The Ohio National Guard has supported the Global War on Terrorism with more than 4.8 million mandays. The Ohio Air National Guard has deployed more than 3,700 Airmen while the Ohio Army National Guard has deployed more than 8,800 Soldiers to 36 countries. Our Airmen and Soldiers have been around the globe ensuring America’s national security objectives are met.

The noncommissioned officer corps is the most professional that I have seen in my years of service. They train, equip and care for our Soldiers and Airmen. I attribute our high readiness, strength, mission accomplishment and preparedness to their professionalism and dedication to leadership.

With this high operational tempo, our family readiness program has become the best in the nation. The Family Readiness Office was recently recognized as a benchmark state for its initiative with the Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee. Also, the Family Readiness Office has coordinated more than $25,000 in grants through the Our Military Kids program that has paid for our youth to participate in activities outside of school. Our families have made many sacrifices, and I am grateful for all your support and understanding.

Lastly, the Ohio National Guard is now conducting military-to-military contacts with the Republic of Serbia through the National Guard Bureau’s State Partnership Program. Since last fall, when Serbia and the United States signed a Status of Forces Agreement signed, representatives from Serbia and Ohio have visited on four occasions to gain insights into organizational structure, Defense Support of Civil Authorities and Air National Guard structure and missions. Seven exchanges are planned for the upcoming year. The ONG-Hungary partnership remains strong, with two exchanges conducted last fall, and three more planned.

Each Airman, Soldier and family member has truly written another proud chapter in the history of the Ohio National Guard. Each has been outstanding in the “away game” and the “home game.” I am truly proud of each of you, proud of your accomplishments and grateful for your service to our state and nation.
A new era: Strickland inaugurated, takes reins as commander-in-chief

COLUMBUS—Despite the weather, about 5,000 people crowded the West Lawn of the Statehouse for Gov. Ted Strickland’s inauguration Jan. 13, the first conducted outdoors since 1991.

The last three swearing-in ceremonies, for former Govs. Bob Taft and George Voinovich, were forced into the Ohio Theatre because of inclement weather. Strickland, who had already officially begun his term as Ohio’s 68th governor on Jan. 8, said during his inaugural address that he heard “an echo of hope” among average Ohioans when he was on the campaign trail last fall.

“If we trust our future to the hopes and dream of the average Ohioan, the dividend we’ll see will be the return of Ohio’s greatness,” he said. “I’m here today—with humility and a deep sense of responsibility—to accept the mantle of leadership the people of Ohio have passed from governor to governor for more than two hundred years,” Strickland said. “I am fully conscious that I stand here today not as an individual speaking for himself, but as a representative chosen to speak for all Ohioans.”

As governor, Strickland serves as commander-in-chief of the Ohio National Guard, in charge of the organization’s 16,000 Soldiers and Airmen during peacetime. The governor has the ability to activate the National Guard in times of disaster or emergency, both natural and man-made, such as flooding, blizzards, tornados, riots and insurrection. More than 2,700 Ohio National Guard members were called up in September 2005 in support of Gulf state recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

In his first official action as governor, Strickland signed an executive order to establish new ethics requirements for himself, his staff, cabinet agencies (including the Adjutant General’s Department) and state boards and commissions.

The executive order requires Strickland and his staff to decline virtually all gifts, except those valued at or below $20. The order also requires every state department and agency to appoint a chief ethics officer to ensure their staff is educated about ethics requirements, and calls for an anonymous reporting system for possible ethics violations.

“This order sends a clear message to all Ohioans that their government will answer to them, not special interests,” Strickland said.

Strickland was born Aug. 4, 1941 in Lucasville, Ohio, one of nine children. A U.S. representative from Southern Ohio when he was elected governor Nov. 7, Strickland also has served as a minister, prison psychologist, and college professor.

Governor reappoints Wayt state adjutant general

COLUMBUS—Newly elected Gov. Ted Strickland announced the appointment of Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt as Ohio adjutant general, a job he held for the past 2 1/2 years under the previous administration.

“I am proud General Wayt will continue to protect Ohio and provide leadership to our state’s brave men and women in uniform,” Strickland said. “I look forward to working with him to ensure Ohio’s military remains prepared to serve our state and our nation when they are called upon.”

Wayt received a Regular Army commission in 1975 in the air defense artillery branch. He has commanded and held staff officer assignments at all levels of the Ohio Army National Guard, from battery to Joint Force Headquarters. Prior to becoming Ohio’s Adjutant General on July 1, 2004, Wayt was assigned as the joint chief of staff for Joint Force Headquarters in Ohio. Wayt’s many awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit. He was a distinguished military graduate from the Ohio State University ROTC program.

Wayt graduated from Ohio State University with a bachelor’s degree in parks and recreation. He earned his master’s in public administration from the University of Dayton. In 1987, Wayt graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and in 1997 he graduated from the Army War College.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to continue my service to Ohio in the Strickland administration,” Wayt said. “The dedication and hard work of the 16,000 men and women of the Ohio National Guard, their families and their employers, have ensured that we are ready and able to respond to any events in Ohio and around the world. This announcement is a reflection of the leadership and the teamwork of all of our members.”

The Adjutant General’s Department is responsible for the preparedness of the Ohio Army National Guard, Ohio Air National Guard, Ohio Military Reserve and Ohio Naval Militia. In addition, the adjutant general is responsible for the day-to-day operations and management of these military organizations and the state agency.
Hall: new deployment policies to relieve stress, promote unit cohesion

WASHINGTON—The new Defense Department policy limiting the duration of call-ups to 12 months is already in effect for National Guard and reserve members being ordered to active duty, the senior DoD reserve affairs official reported.

The new mobilization limits, announced Jan. 11, are designed to reduce stress on the force and keep Guardsmen and reservists from leaving the military, Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, said during a joint interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel.

Hall said Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates’ policy recognizes that the 18-to-24-month mobilizations many Guard and reserve members faced were creating too heavy a burden.

“It is over and above what employers and families and individuals will accept and still remain in the Guard and Reserve, Hall said.”

Hall reported that while shortening mobilization times, the military is also working to stretch out the time between involuntary reserve-component call-ups.

DoD’s goal is to give reserve-component members five years at home between one-year-deployments. For active-duty troops, the goal is two years at home station after each one-year deployment.

Hall acknowledged that turnaround times for both active-and reserve-component troops have frequently been far shorter—and that this needs to change. “We recognize that we’re getting to a situation where we needed to make sure we adequately spread the burden between the active, Guard and reserve (force),” he said.

But in cases in which troops must deploy early or have their deployments extended—a situation Hall acknowledged will sometimes happen—he said he’s all for a new plan to compensate the affected troops.

Another new policy change—that Guard and Reserve troops will deploy as units rather than individuals—also is drawing wide approval, Hall said. The plan also calls for eliminating “cross-leveling,” a practice used to fill manpower slots in deploying units.

Hall described the problem with cross-leveling. When a reserve unit is identified for deployment but doesn’t have all its positions filled, those gaps get filled by smaller units or individuals from other units. But when those other units get deployed, they now have gaps, too, because their troops are either deployed or just returned from a deployment. “This just creates a ripple effect,” Hall said.

Under Gates’ new policy, Army and Marine units will deploy as a whole. “So, when your unit is called, if you are serving in that unit, you will go, even if you might have mobilized before,” Hall said. “This will promote cohesion and will be a better planning factor.”

Senate confirms two-year extension for Blum at NGB

WASHINGTON—The National Guard Bureau Chief, Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, was notified Jan. 26 that the U.S. Senate confirmed his nomination for a two-year extension in his current position. In December 2006, he was nominated for this extension by President Bush. Blum will have served as the chief for four years in April 2007.

During his tenure, Blum has presided over the transformation of the National Guard from a strategic reserve to an operational force. In the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, he rebalanced the National Guard to ensure the nation’s governors would have at least one-half of their National Guard available at all times to mitigate the effects of potential catastrophic events. During Hurricane Katrina, he directed the largest military response to a national disaster in American history, sending more than 50,000 guardsmembers from every state and territory to relieve the badly stricken Gulf states.

Ohio National Guard’s senior NCO visits Hungarian Land Forces

BUDAPEST—Command Sgt. Maj. William Gilliam, Ohio’s state command sergeant major, assumed the role of international ambassador during a recent week-long visit to Hungary. Gilliam traveled to the region at the invitation of the Hungarian Defense Forces to help re-energize military partnership efforts.

“I gladly accepted the invitation to get a first-hand look at Hungary’s modernized land forces,” said Gilliam, referring to the rapid transformation of the Hungarian military in the post-Cold War era. “I also wanted to get a sense of the progress of Ohio’s military partnership with Hungary under its emerging democratic leadership.”

Since 1993, the National Guard State Partnership Program has sought to link state National Guards with partner countries for the purpose of improving bilateral relations with the United States. The program goals reflect an evolving international affairs mission for the National Guard—to promote regional stability and civil-military relationships in support of U.S. policy objectives.

The Ohio National Guard began an early partnership with the Republic of Hungary, now a member of NATO, for the express purpose of demonstrating, through the example of the citizen-Soldier, the proper role of the military in a democratic society.

The Hungarian Land Forces’ senior enlisted soldier, Command Sgt. Maj. Janos Zsoter, whose equivalent U.S. rank is sergeant major of the Army, escorted Gilliam to various army installations and training sites strategically positioned throughout Hungary.

Zsoter made it a priority to facilitate active discussions between his senior enlisted personnel and Ohio’s top sergeant on the roles and responsibilities of an NCO.

“We want our NCOs to be as professional as our American counterparts,” said Zsoter, who is a graduate of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy.
Congress, Ohio Legislature pass bills that affect National Guard

Before their respective sessions concluded in late 2006, federal and state lawmakers completed important legislation affecting servicemembers.

State Legislation. The Ohio General Assembly took action last winter to allow members of our state retirement systems to purchase military service credit for drill, annual training and State Active Duty in the Ohio National Guard. Previously, inactive duty, or the required service of one weekend per month, two weeks during the summer, any additional mandatory training throughout the year, as well as any time served in the United States during times of emergency or natural disaster, was not reflected as service time that members were eligible to purchase; only federal active duty was eligible for service credit.

Under House Bill 71, members of the Guard and Reserve components may purchase credit for time served that is classified as inactive at a cost of 100 percent of the additional liability to the respective pension system. Guardmembers would only be permitted to purchase the inactive duty time they acquired prior to becoming a member of the retirement system. For example, if a Guardmember served for five years before working for a state or municipal job, that member may buy all active duty time served during those five years. Members interested in purchasing more time should contact their respective pension systems.

Federal Legislation. The House-Senate conference committee for the National Defense Authorization Act of 2007 accepted language that would expand the authority of the president to call out the National Guard at home without consulting state governors. Language in the bill, passed by Congress the last weekend in September, gives the president authority to use the military, including the National Guard in federal status, in the event of “a natural disaster, terrorist attack or incident, epidemic or other serious public emergency, or other condition” so serious that state authorities are unable to maintain public order. A significant concern is that the new provisions permit the federal government to usurp a state governor’s authority over the National Guard as well as the structure of authorities which proved effective when viewing the National Guard’s response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The National Governors Association and the adjutants general unanimously opposed the language, and the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) has committed to seek to overturn that language in the 110th Congress.

Legislation for Veterans. A comprehensive bill which will benefit millions of veterans was passed by the U.S. Senate on the last day of the 109th Congress, and was signed by President Bush. The new law will allow the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to proceed with major construction projects across the country, improve mental health care access, enhance telehealth outreach, increase assistance to address homelessness and improve protections for veterans’ personal information.

The legislation will also require the VA to establish an Office of Rural Health. In addition, veterans homes run by state governments will now be reimbursed by the federal government for the costs of care provided to those veterans with a 70 percent or higher service-connected disability. The changes will also affect veterans in those homes; veterans with service-connected conditions rated at least 50 percent disabled will be able to obtain their medications from the VA. The bill will also enable the VA to create a pilot program that makes non-VA facilities—such as private nursing homes or community hospitals—eligible for state veterans home per diem payments.

The bill also adds $65 million to increase the number of medical professionals treating post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and $2 million for additional blind rehabilitation specialists and more such facilities.

Johann Klein is legislative liaison for the Adjutant General’s Department.
Tech Sgt. Doug Noah says he grew up in a small town—Smithville, Ohio—“where being patriotic was not a fad...it is there to stay.”

Noah was born while his father was stationed in Korea with the 121st Fighter Squadron out of then-Lockbourne Air National Guard Base (now known as Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, located in Columbus).

Doug has carried on the family tradition of military service, and now has 19 years with the 121st Air Refueling Wing. His uncle, brothers and late wife, Michele, have also worked either for the Defense Department or served in the Air National Guard.

His patriotism and love of the Air Force led him to create a unique tribute to the organization. Noah had his Kawasaki Vulcan 1600 Classic motorcycle custom painted to include the Air Force logo on the gas tank.

The paint scheme was designed during a meal by Noah and his friend, Bryon Ritchie, on a restaurant napkin, Noah said.

“It was between an Air Force theme or a ‘The’ Ohio State University theme,” Noah said. “My family has long traditions with both.”

Obviously, the Air Force was the direction they chose.

“Poor Bryon did two paint jobs for the price of one. I felt badly that I didn’t like the first paint scheme,” Noah said. “Bryon added more ‘bling’ than I had in mind for the first theme. Bryon took it better than I thought, because he had 20-plus hours into the first paint scheme. Instead of trying to sell me on the concept, Bryon stripped the entire paint job off to begin the original layout and theme. The rest is history.”

“This motorcycle has had rave reviews from 98 percent of onlookers,” Noah estimated. “It really turns heads, because it’s unique —yet not over-the-top. Everyone likes the logos, but a few didn’t know they had anything to do with the Air Force. A couple people have sneered at the theme, but their opinions really don’t bother me,” he said with a smile.

Noah now resides in Wooster, where he is vice president of business development for GetitQuick.com—an office supply and furniture business with a quick-delivery business model.
FEEDBACK FROM THE FIELD

ONGEA to host state conference at Kalahari Resort near Lake Erie

Mark your calendars! The date and location of the ONGEA 2007 State Conference has been confirmed for May 4-6 at the Kalahari Resort, Sandusky.

With plenty of events scheduled, attendance of representatives from all units (Army and Air) is strongly encouraged. Some of the weekend’s planned activities include an “ice breaker” Friday night, business and professional development sessions Saturday and Sunday, and an awards banquet Saturday night. Tradition-ally, Ohio National Guard Servicemem-bers of the Year and ONGEA Scholarship recipients are recognized during Saturday night’s presentations.

If you are an active guardmember, and the conference conflicts with your Unit Training Assembly, ONGEA leadership is pursuing avenues to have attendees receive constructive credit for conference attendance. If approved, such guidance will be furnished through command channels as soon as it becomes available.

In an effort to make the conference more family-friendly, ONGEA Conference Chair Shelly Brunn has scheduled the conference at Ohio’s largest indoor water park, African-themed Kalahari Resort in Sandusky. Babysitting will be available during both the conference and the banquet at no additional cost.

Room rates can be tailored to your needs, ranging from a Hut Room without water park passes at $80 per night to a Desert Room with four water park passes at $140 per night. Individual water park passes can be purchased at $20 for guests or $34 for non-guests. Room rates are secure until April 4, 2007. For reservations, call the hotel at (877) 253-5466 and be sure to mention your ONGEA affiliation.

Conference registration forms can be downloaded from the ONGEA website at www.ongea.org or by contacting the ONGEA Office at ongea@juno.com or 1-800-642-6642 extension 44. Registration forms and fees should be mailed to Conference Chair Shelly Brunn by April 15.

SMSGT M. RANDY DUNHAM
ONGEA PRESIDENT

Feature on United Through Reading showcases program’s worth

I recently received a copy of the Summer/Fall 2006 edition of the “Buckeye Guard” magazine and was excited to review the article on page 30 regarding the United Through Reading program (military extension of the Family Literacy Foundation). Recently, during a meeting of the Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee, I had the opportunity to hear a presentation from this organization and was impressed by the positive impact that this program is making by combining educational initiatives and military family support. All involved with this program deserve a hearty “well done!”

Additionally, I am interested in our office receiving a subscription to the magazine “Buckeye Guard” to help inform staff of issues that are impacting our guard personnel and opportunities for better outreach with the DVA G.I. Bill educational benefit programs. Our office mailing information is included below.

TERRY J. WORST, STATE DIRECTOR
OHIO STATE APPROVING AGENCY FOR VETERANS TRAINING

Project’s scope includes all chaplains, assistants, both past, present

The U.S. Army Chaplain Museum in Fort Jackson, SC, is assembling a database that will include the names of every chaplain and chaplain assistant who served in the Army, from 1775 to present.

The database will be a valuable tool for researchers and descendents of chaplains and chaplain assistants, and will be placed in a kiosk at the Chaplain Museum. Any chaplain, chaplain assistant, or family member that can provide information for the database is encouraged to contact Mr. Tim Taylor, Museum Technician, U.S. Army Chaplain Museum, 10100 Lee Road, Fort Jackson, SC 29207, telephone (803) 751-8827, e-mail timothy.taylor12@us.army.mil.

SSG JOSHUA D. MANN
JFHQ-OHIO HISTORIAN

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHT

In July 1924, Fostoria High School band director, John W. Wainwright, mustered into the Ohio National Guard in order to organize the 107th Cavalry Band. Instead of auditioning new members, Wainwright enlisted many of the boys from the high school band into the Ohio National Guard and would hold additional practices after school hours that would fine tune their musical skills and meet their weekly drill requirement. The 107th Cavalry Band was disbanded in 1927 as many of the boys graduated high school and moved away from Fostoria. However, in 1926, the boys from Fostoria were hailed as the best band in the Ohio National Guard. Submitted by Richard Mann, Seneca County Historian
Ohio Air National Guard wings earn new missions as part of Total Force Integration

As part of the U.S. Government’s Foreign Military Sales program transaction with the Dutch Air Force, F-16 fighter jet (above) pilots from the 178th Fighter Wing in Springfield will instruct Dutch pilots on the newly acquired aircraft.

Story by James A Sims II

178th Fighter Wing

The Ohio Air National Guard’s 178th Fighter Wing, Springfield, has been assigned two new missions as part of the Air Force Total Force Integration initiatives. The 178th will provide flight instruction, facilities, flight operations, and maintenance support to the Royal Netherlands Air Force through the Foreign Military Sales program.

“This new mission for the Ohio Air National Guard is going to be a fantastic opportunity for our flight instructors, operators and maintenance workers to share their knowledge with the Royal Netherlands Air Force,” said Maj. Gen. Harry “A.J.” Feucht, assistant adjutant general for Air. “This training will enhance the Royal Netherlands Air Force’s ability to defend the skies over their own and other NATO countries, and continue contributions in the Global War on Terrorism.”


F-16s and personnel from the Royal Netherlands Air Force are scheduled to arrive in Springfield in mid-April. A formal kick-off ceremony for the new mission is set for April 24.

“This opportunity is the result of a team effort at the local, state and federal levels,” Wayt said. “We knew if we could get the Air Force, National Guard and Dutch officials on the base, we could walk them through the advantages of our highly-skilled workforce, specialized infrastructure and location, and they would understand why Springfield is an ideal site for this new mission.”

The second Total Force Integration initiative calls for the 178th to establish a new Measurement and Signature Intelligence (MASINT) unit which performs analysis functions to support military commanders.

179th Airlift Wing

The Mansfield-based 179th Airlift Wing, which was originally scheduled to close as a result of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendations, will instead receive two new missions. A Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers (RED HORSE) will be stationed in Mansfield, increasing the state’s engineering assets. The new unit will augment the current Port Clinton-based 200th RED HORSE, adding about 200 Airmen to the unit and bringing $11 million in construction to the area. Experienced Ohio Airmen will train the new RED HORSE members on missions such as providing damage/requirements assessment, heavy damage repair, base development and heavy construction operations including aircraft parking ramps and munitions pads.

The 179th has also been identified as the future home of a wing of Joint Cargo Aircraft (JCA). The plan to field small, combat-hardened, twin-engine cargo planes built for short takeoffs and landings would allow the Mansfield unit to continue conducting their traditional airlift mission.

Two aircraft manufacturing teams are competing for the JCA contract and in January both manufacturers delivered their final proposals to the U.S. Army and Air Force.

The 179th is expected to continue flying the C-130 until the BRAC-mandated date for reassigning the aircraft in 2010. At that time, the unit will begin its transition to the Joint Cargo Aircraft.

180th Fighter Wing

The 180th Fighter Wing, Toledo, will add a new Air Sovereignty Alert (ASA) mission in support of 1st Air Force.

One of four numbered Air Forces assigned to Air Combat Command, 1st Air Force plans, controls, coordinates, ensures air sovereignty and provides air defense for the nation. 1st Air Force is comprised of 10 Air National Guard fighter wings.

With the transfer of responsibility for continental air defense from the active duty component of the Air Force to the Air National Guard, 1st Air Force became the first numbered air force to be made up primarily of Citizen-Airmen.

“This mission is critical to the defense of this nation and the 180th is poised and ready,” said Col. Mark Bartman, 180th commander.

The new ASA mission, set to begin in early 2009, will bring additional aircraft and personnel to the 180th.
By Staff Sgt. Joshua Mann
JFHQ-Ohio

With less than eight months remaining in the largest transformation the Ohio Army National Guard has seen since the 1960s, Ohio’s senior Army leader is pleased with the progression and is confident the remainder of the plan will be executed in the same manner.

“We are absolutely on plan,” said Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, assistant adjutant general for the Ohio Army National Guard. “It’s been a magnificent thing to watch.”

Since the transformation plan was written in 2004, Ohio has executed a reorganization that transitions the Guard from a strategic reserve to an operational force. In addition to the Army-driven modernization, the plan set goals for realigning Ohio’s units for better command and control while at the same time maintaining the highest level of readiness. Kambic said the achievement, occurring during the fifth and sixth years of the Global War on Terrorism, is remarkable.

“The overwhelming response was Soldiers who were appreciative to have a clear understanding of their future.”

The changes initiated approximately 5,000 personnel actions in September 2006. Units have turned their attention aggressively to developing programs to put Soldiers in the appropriate schools to meet the reclassification requirements associated with transformation, a process Kambic said is critical.

The new force structure must now be equipped. The Ohio Army National Guard’s logistics community has worked nonstop to meet the needs of transformation. Since October 2006, more than 1,200 lateral transfers and turn-in actions were completed, adding up to more than 16,000 pieces of equipment moving to units around the state.

The transformation warehouse, located at Defense Supply Center Columbus (DSCC), is processing 70 to 80 transfer and turn-in actions weekly in a program that is running “like clockwork,” Kambic said.

However, their work is not complete. More than 27,000 pieces of equipment are projected for allocation to various units in the coming months. Among those pieces are new state-of-the-art equipment never seen before in the National Guard. One of those systems, the JNN (Joint Network Node), was recently fielded by the Springfield-based Company C, Special Troops Battalion, 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Company C became the first National Guard unit to field the JNN, a multimillion dollar communications system built by General Dynamics.

“The JNN system provides the 37th with secure data and voice in times of peace and war to maintain command and control and provide commanders with real-time data,” said Capt. Teri Williams, Company C commander. “The JNN equipment is the communications system for the wars of today and tomorrow.”

“We’ve got the people set, we’ve got the leadership set, so right now we’re building our teams,” Kambic said.

This final and most critical part of transformation will play out over the coming months at weekend drills and will culminate at annual training. Units will spend the next few months sharpening their individual and crew skills. For Company C, that means sharpening the job skills they developed at Fort Hood, Texas, from July through September 2006. Those skills will be tested at annual training when the company conducts a confidence exercise with the new equipment.

“The Soldiers of Charlie Company are motivated and excited about all the new equipment arriving at the unit,” Williams said.

“We can’t waste this opportunity to put these new teams on the ground and allow them to become more cohesive units,” Kambic added.

Since the transformation plan was put in place, Ohio has received
The 174th ADA Brigade was a perfect fit for Ohio, with two existing air defense artillery battalions. Smith said he believes Ohio is not used to the type of air defense that we are accustomed to,” Smith said.

The air defense community recently proved its relevance in Ohio as Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment deployed sentinel radar teams to Iraq to detect enemy mortar and rocket fire locations. Additionally, the majority of the 2nd Battalion deployed to the National Capitol Region last fall to protect the skies over Washington D.C. The 174th ADA Brigade was a perfect fit for Ohio, with two existing air defense battalions. Smith said he believes the unit will be a critical component to organizing at a high level of readiness in 2008.

“We have so many senior grade positions, officers and senior NCOs, so we’re trying to make sure we get qualified people into the positions,” Smith said.

“What the ADA brings us is upward mobility for the leadership associated with two air defense artillery battalions that we didn’t have before,” Kambic added.

The addition of the 174th ADA and the transition of the 371st Support Group into the 371st Sustainment Brigade presented Ohio leaders with the opportunity to further enhance the organization’s readiness. Effective April 1, 2007 Ohio will transition from three to five Major Subordinate Commands (MSC) under the adjutant general. This new structure will allow a “flatter” command and control mechanism, which will lead to enhanced readiness and better service to the Soldier.

The 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team will continue to oversee the state’s maneuver forces. The 16th Engineer Brigade will maintain the 112th and 216th Engineer Battalions, and the 371st Sustainment Brigade will take over the 112th Transportation Battalion and 237th Personnel Services Battalion. The 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade will oversee the two air defense artillery battalions.

The final MSC, 73rd Troop Command, will be packaged into a joint task force with homeland defense response capabilities.

“Task Force 73” will have command and control of Ohio’s Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, High Yield Explosives, Enhanced Response Force Package (CERF-P). The CERF-P was allotted to Ohio in 2006 and consists of the 155th Chemical Battalion (Middletown), 637th Chemical Company (Kettering), 1194th Engineer Company (Chillicothe) and the Medical Group of the 121st Air Refueling Wing (Columbus), Ohio Air National Guard.

The CERF-P is unique in many aspects. First, it is an additional task to the assigned doctrinal mission. Second, it is a joint organization, combining the assets of the Army and Air National Guard.

This revolutionary, cutting-edge organization maximizes and leverages National Guard capabilities to respond to events within the state—which Kambic said supports the National Guard’s dual mission and the adjutant general’s vision.

“General Wayt’s number one priority is and will always be serving the governor and the citizens of Ohio,” Kambic said.

In addition to the CERF-P, 73rd Troop Command will administer command and control of the 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment, 52nd Civil Support Team (WMD) and the National Guard Reaction Force which is drawn from elements within the 437th Military Police Battalion.

Kambic said no force structure changes are planned past 2008. However, as long as Ohio’s assigned strength exceeds the force structure allotment, there will be opportunities to grow.

“We are constantly working to ensure that we have the best balance in our force structure,” he said.

As transformation reaches completion and with Ohio troops prepared to fulfill multiple missions, Kambic credits Ohio’s success to “the agility and adaptability of the leadership and Soldiers within our National Guard.”

**LOOKING AHEAD**

THE OHIO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

SEPTEMBER 2007

[1G] 155th Armored Brigade
> 1st Battalion, 1/155th Armored Rgt.
> 1st Battalion, 2/155th Armored Rgt.
> 1st Battalion, 3/155th Armored Rgt.
> 1st Battalion, 4/155th Armored Rgt.

[37th INF BCT] 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team
> 1st Battalion, 1/37th Infantry Rgt.
> 2nd Battalion, 2/37th Infantry Rgt.
> 3rd Battalion, 37th Infantry Rgt.

[73rd TRP CMND] 73rd Troop Command
> 1st Battalion, 73rd Troop Command
> 2nd Battalion, 73rd Troop Command

[174th ADA BDE] 174th Air Defense Artillery Brigade
> 1st Battalion, 1/174th ADA Bde
> 2nd Battalion, 1/174th ADA Bde
Battalion embodies flexibility during past 15 years

As the Ohio Army National Guard approaches completion of transformation into a modular force, it should look to one organization that set the standard for remaining ready in the face of change. Today we know this organization as the 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment. Only three years ago, it was the 1st Battalion, 147th Armored Regiment.

The 147th Armored Regiment has a long, proud history of service to Ohio. First organized in the Ohio Militia on April 19, 1854, at Cincinnati as the “Guthrie Grays,” it is the third oldest organization in the Ohio National Guard, a title it earned because of its lineage back to the Civil War and answered the call during the War with Spain. It was first designated as the 147th Infantry in 1917 and served in Europe. During World War II the 147th Regimental Combat Team saw action in the Pacific and throughout its existence provided countless services to Ohio’s citizens.

However, some of the organization’s greatest challenges have occurred in the past 15 years. In 1994, as the Army reduced its forces and Ohio lost its 73rd Infantry Brigade, the 1st Battalion, 147th Infantry converted to the 1st Battalion, 147th Armored Regiment. Soldiers who one day were marching through the mud with rifles were the next riding into battle on one of the world’s most technologically advanced tanks.

As half of the 37th Brigade, 38th Infantry Division’s armored force, the 147th carried with it the high standards for readiness and training it displayed as an infantry organization. These standards and the quality of leadership would be put to the test again just six years later as Ohio received notice in 2000 that it would lose an armor battalion and gain an air defense artillery battalion in 2005. “It was a remarkable leadership challenge to get those NCOs and officers to hold that battalion together over those five years,” said Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, assistant adjutant general, Army.
The popularity of motorcycling grows more and more every year. Dealers are experiencing increased sales, and the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles is reporting an increase in motorcycle registrations and endorsements.

However there can be a negative consequence to this trend as well—more cyclists sharing the roads have led to a recent increase in the number of motorcycle crashes and fatalities in Ohio.

Motorcycle statistics remained steady in Ohio from 2000 to 2004, averaging 3,886 crashes, 3,263 injuries and 130 fatalities per year. However, in 2005, those totals rose sharply to 4,427 crashes, 3,758 injuries and 177 deaths. Motorcycle operators were found at fault in the majority of crashes, nearly one-half of the fatalities were alcohol-related, and one-half of fatalities were single-vehicle crashes. Also, 72 percent of the cyclists killed were not wearing helmets.

Last year, 17 Army National Guard Soldiers across the nation were killed or seriously injured in motorcycle-related crashes.

Because of this significant increase in crashes, most of which appear to be due to motorcycle operator negligence, the Motorcycle Ohio Program of the Ohio Department of Public Safety is strongly encouraging all cyclists to get properly licensed and trained and ride responsibly.

Rider PPE includes a Department of Transportation approved helmet, a face shield or impact-resistant goggles attached securely to the helmet, sturdy over-the-ankle footwear, long-sleeved shirt or jacket, long pants, full-fingered gloves or mittens designed for motorcycles, brightly colored outer garments such as a vest, belt, riding jacket and a retro-reflective upper garment for night riding.

These requirements are spelled out under the Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 6055.4, the DOD Traffic Safety Program and AR 385-55, Prevention of motor vehicle accidents.

In the 16-hour Basic Rider Course, you will learn basic skills such as shifting, negotiating curves and avoiding hazards. Students successfully completing the course will also be issued a completion card for the purpose of waiving the on-cycle skills test. Students must have a valid temporary motorcycle permit or a motorcycle endorsement prior to participating in range instruction.

The program also offers a six-hour Experienced Rider Course for those who are knowledgeable riders but may need a refresher course on safe riding techniques.

Motorcycle Ohio remains the premiere motorcycle safety and education program in the state, having enhanced the riding skills of more than 90,000 motorcyclists since it was established in 1987. The program operates 15 permanent training locations throughout Ohio as well as 20 additional training locations with its mobile program. Motorcycle Ohio’s fleet consists of more than 400 training motorcycles, helmets and over 240 instructors to assist students in learning to ride a motorcycle.

All servicemembers who operate a motorcycle on a military installation are required to complete a Motorcycle Safety Foundation Course.

For more information on the Motorcycle Ohio courses, please contact Peter Cline, Motorcycle Ohio, at (614) 995-7121 or 1-800-83-RIDER. Training locations and schedules can be found on Motorcycle Ohio’s Web site at www.motorcycle.ohio.gov.

As an Army or Air National Guard member, whether you own, operate or want to learn how to ride a motorcycle, you will be reimbursed the $25.00 registration fee for successful completion of
DID YOU KNOW?

National Guard Soldiers and Airmen in an “on-duty” status are required to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when operating a motorcycle—even when it is not required by state law.

In order for the Ohio National Guard to meet these requirements, the organization has partnered with Motorcycle Ohio to provide their rider training courses FREE to Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen.

A Soldier navigates a motorcycle safety course sponsored by the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

An Experienced Rider Course participant navigates the course.

Story by Julie Ehrhart, Ohio Department of Public Safety and Maj. Edward Mikula, State Safety Office

For more information regarding reimbursement, Airmen should contact their respective base’s safety office. Soldiers should contact the Ohio Army National Guard Safety Office at (614) 336-7033.
Guard Soldiers train under watchful eyes
Camp Buehring, Kuwait — Spc. Andrew Trick lines up in a four-man team, 100-plus degree heat bearing down, as he waits outside a room with suspected insurgents inside, gripping his M-4 Carbine rifle tight enough to turn his knuckles white.

Inside an air-conditioned theater, his executive officer watches with up to 12 live video camera feeds following Trick in the door, down the hall and into the targeted room. He writes notes, critiques his Soldiers’ actions and comes up with a game plan for the next exercise—like a football coach watching game film.

This isn’t the real thing, but Camp Buehring’s Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain facility, commonly known as MOUT, is certainly no game. Trick and Troop C of the 2-107th Cavalry Regiment of the Ohio Army National Guard, now in Iraq for a tour of duty, utilized this as one of their final train-up exercises before the unit moved north across the border.

“Each man has a section of the room they’re going to be scanning,” said 1st Lt. Austin Dufresne, Troop C executive officer. “First thing we’re going to be looking for is that they scan each section of the room. Once they got that, they’re checking for any other threats.”

The other threats Dufresne refers to—explosives, weapons, even a loud woman screaming Arabic obscenities—are all simulated in the exercise. From the control room, technicians with the Army Central Command’s Kuwait Armed Forces Training Center trigger the obstacles like an amusement park haunted house.

“The scenario is set up by the unit commander,” said Capt. Kenneth Smith, operations officer for the Kuwait Armed Forces Training Center. “The unit commander gives his training guidance, and the (MOUT technicians) run the site to facilitate his training objectives.”

The exercise is part of a required list of training tasks for any unit entering Iraq. Charlie Troop was given nine days in Kuwait to complete the training tasks before deploying north.

For Troop C, the deployment process was launched several months earlier, beginning with seven-days-a-week training at Fort Dix, N.J.—the unit’s mobilization station. There, the unit did it all—from familiarization of improvised explosive devices to similar training on clearing a room.

“This is just getting everyone back in the mind-set,” Trick said.

Trick had been a senior majoring in construction management at the University of Cincinnati. In Iraq, he is part of a cavalry unit, sent to Iraq for a scheduled 12-month tour.

The MOUT exercise starts with two practice rooms, where Trick and his team enter a room without any obstacles. For the first two rooms, communication among the team members is stressed.

“That’s basically what we’re trying to emphasize here: teamwork,” said 2nd Lt. Mark Federle.

When they move to the third and fourth rooms, their leaders’ interest starts to rise. With one of his senior noncommissioned officers, Master Sgt. Mark Smith, Dufresne marks off what the patrol is doing correctly and incorrectly.

“See that right there, Sir,” Smith says as he pops out of his chair and approaches the television screen. “They’re a little too close to the wall. You’ll want to have a little bit of a standoff.”

Comments are documented in Dufresne’s green notebook. As soon as the patrol is completed, their corrections are given to the team leader. Trick and his teammates passed the test, but with overhead cameras covering their every step, the MOUT facility and Dufresne have given them some homework.

Teams learn security tactics to increase protection when infiltrating buildings.
In Review

Annual Training 2006

Pre-sapper trainees prepare for movement after an aerial insertion mission.
The training area at Camp Grayling, Mich. consists of 147,000 acres, or 230 square miles, to handle modern weapons systems such as the MK-19 belt-fed grenade launcher, M-1 Abrams tanks and Multi Launch Rocket Systems, as well as aviation assets like the UH-60 Black Hawk and CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

Camp Grayling was founded in 1913 on 14,000 acres of land donated to the state by Rasmus Hanson, a local lumberman. Originally named Camp Ferris to honor the state’s then-governor, it became a National Guard training site in 1914, said Lt. Col. Tom Laime, the post public affairs officer.

The camp is capable of hosting more than 10,000 Soldiers and has 450 buildings including a multi-denominational chapel, a fire department, recreational facilities and clubs for officers, noncommissioned officers and enlisted personnel. In addition to the post itself, the site also consists of the surrounding Hanson Military Training Reservation and the Grayling Army Air Field. Hanson reservation consists of live-fire ranges, armor training areas and miles of trails and woodland used to enhance the training of America’s Citizen-Soldiers.

Like all other Soldiers, combat engineers begin their Army careers with Basic Combat Training. They then move on to Advanced Individual Training (AIT) where they learn how to work with demolitions, set up a base camp and remove mines.

But only a handful of these Soldiers volunteer to become Sappers—combat engineers who advance with front-line infantry.

Because Sappers frequently find themselves operating behind enemy lines, they undergo rigorous training similar to Army Rangers, learning small-squad tactics and leadership techniques.

To prepare for the course, a group of Soldiers from the 1193rd Engineer Company and the 612th and 112th Engineer Battalions attended pre-Sapper training during the units’ annual training exercise at Camp Grayling, Mich. in July.

The training began with classroom instruction on troop leading procedures, patrol tactics and field expedient re-supply methods. One such method taught Soldiers how to rig a parachute using 550-cord and a case of Meals, Ready-to-Eat, to be dropped from a helicopter.

The training culminated with a 36-hour patrolling field exercise designed to put the engineers’ new skills to use in a realistic environment. During the exercise, leadership roles were rotated among individual Soldiers to aid in the learning process.

“Pre-Sapper training serves to build an order of merit—give Soldiers better training than they would normally receive prior to training,” said Capt. Troy Haenszel, the 186th Engineer Detachment commander.

Haenszel said success in Sapper school depends on how you solve problems and get things done.

“It takes a little bit of sweat, and sometimes, a little bit of blood,” he said.

After 24 hours of training and only two hours of sleep, the engineers were still in good spirits. Each of them had volunteered for the brutal training, including Staff Sgt. Vincent Mancuso from the Norwalk-based C Company, 612th Engineer Battalion.

“It is high speed,” he said. “I have worked with the 19th Special Forces Group and the 350th Psychological Operations Group. Some people are bookkeepers, some are bankers and some people are Soldiers; I love being a Soldier.”

For more in-depth coverage of Annual Training 2006 at Camp Grayling, Mich., request a copy of the Grayling Bootprint, by sending an e-mail to buckeye@tagoh.gov or calling (614)-336-7003.
“The first thing I noticed was blood coming from behind the Soldier’s head and I immediately yelled for help as I and the other Soldier checked his vital signs and looked over his body for any other injuries.”

Everyday, U.S. Soldiers face life-threatening situations, both on duty and off.

Through Army Warrior Training and the combat lifesaver (CLS), certification course, Soldiers learn first aid skills to administer to their comrades in times of need and to prevent further injury or death.

The skills of four noncommissioned officers from B Company, 237th Forward Support Battalion, were unexpectedly called on at the beginning of their annual training exercise at Camp Grayling, Mich.

Around 2:30 p.m. on June 10, Sgt. Dale E. Wood, from B Company 237th FSB, was taking a break when he heard Soldiers nearby begin yelling.

“I heard a loud commotion, ‘Stop! Stop! Stop!’ Then I saw two Soldiers running from the opposite side of a dump truck. I knew someone was hurt,” said Wood, a qualified Combat lifesaver.

“I ran to see what was the matter and the first thing I thought of was my CLS bag—that’s all you’ve got. I immediately ran back and grabbed my bag. That’s when I saw Staff Sergeant (Robert G.) Zimmer and yelled to him for help. When I got to the injured Soldier, my instincts kicked in.”

Meanwhile, Zimmer, a missile maintenance section sergeant also from B Company, immediately called Sgt. Lee Ackerman for assistance. In addition to Army Common Task Testing (CTT) first aid training, Ackerman had also received training from the American Red Cross.

When Wood arrived on scene, one Soldier was attempting to revive another who had fallen from the truck. Two others ran to call 911.

“The first thing I noticed was blood coming from behind the Soldier’s head and I immediately yelled for help as I and the other Soldier checked his vital signs and looked over his body for any other injuries,” Wood said. “He was coming in and out of consciousness as I applied the first layer of bandages.”

Zimmer and Ackerman arrived soon after Wood.

Knowing that a situation as dangerous as this could become increasingly chaotic, Zimmer assumed command and control responsibility over the accident scene as a large group of confused bystanders quickly began forming around the fallen Soldier.

“When I came over, he was in critical need of medical assistance,” Zimmer said. “Initially, I was asking everyone what was happening. I was trying to get a record of who had possibly seen what had happened.”

Zimmer said 911 had already been called when he told Sgt. David C. Gabriel to get another CLS bag.

Ackerman and Wood immediately began to reapply dressings and stabilize the Soldier’s head and neck.

“I arrived and immediately recalled the training I received from CTT and from the Red Cross. We needed to figure out if he had any brain damage,” Ackerman said. “Once Sgt. Wood and I were involved, the other Soldiers around started to relax and let us do what we were trained to do.”

Within minutes, Gabriel returned with the CLS bag. Grayling paramedics arrived shortly after.

Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army, commended Ackerman, Gabriel, Woods and Zimmer for their confidence and ability to take action.

According to Master Sgt. Robert L. Dunn, from the Maneuver Training Center at Camp Grayling, the injured Michigan Soldier is doing fine. He was released from the hospital after receiving nine stitches.
SGT Lee Ackerman (from left, top), SSG Robert G. Zimmer, SGT David C. Gabriel and SGT Dale E. Wood were recognized for their life-saving actions during annual training by providing first aid to an injured Michigan National Guard Soldier who had fallen from a truck.
The pre-mobilization lanes training at Camp Shelby, Miss. incorporate as much realism as possible, including “Civilians on the Battlefield” or “COBs.” SGT Craig Kirby of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, stays focused on his mission while a woman asks him for something to drink.

HATTIESBURG, Miss.—We are reminded frequently in our training that a Soldier’s first military occupational specialty (MOS) is always 11B (infantry).

With that in mind the Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment—currently mobilized to Kuwait through this summer in support of the Global War on Terrorism—participated in four days of infantry training during pre-mobilization last year at Camp Shelby, Miss. before deploying overseas.

With the mercury hitting in the high 90s daily, everyone from privates to lieutenant colonels, from ages 19 to 58, managed to sweat their way through the intense training which included tasks such as individual movement techniques (IMTs), troop leading procedures, movement as a platoon, reaction to a sniper, reaction to a near ambush and conducting a deliberate attack on an element.

The first day of training was by far the most physical. The troops formed into buddy teams and negotiated a lane which required them to employ various IMTs, including a high crawl, low crawl under barbed wire, climb a 5-foot high wall and execute a series of 3-5 second rushes. It was safe to say that there were no clean BDUs when the lane was finished.

Day Two focused on movements as a platoon. The Soldiers practiced moving in the fire team wedge and Ranger file using hand and arm signals and while crossing a danger zone. During one of the road marches, they encountered a friendly village and employed their Soldier values when reacting to the civilian actors that represented civilians on the battlefield (COB). Days three and four saw the intensity level kicked up a notch, as they conducted more platoon level tactics.

“The instructors at the range did an outstanding job of making the training realistic,” Spc. Francheska Ovington said. “It made it more fun which enhanced the learning experience.”

First Sgt. James Nichols was pleased that his noncommissioned officers had an opportunity to brush up on leading a platoon before going overseas.

“These are the leaders that are getting the job done in the War on Terrorism, so it’s great for them to refresh their skills on infantry tactics,” Nichols said. “I’m also proud of all our Soldiers for the way they (took) care of each other. Despite days of 100-degree heat, we had no heat casualties.”
Strength through adversity:

Loss of limb no hurdle for Ohio combat veteran

Story by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Snow
196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

ANOTHER DAY IN THE SANDBOX

On a dusty, remote stretch of road on a sweltering desert evening in August, 2004, Soldiers from the Chillicothe-based A Company, 216th Engineer Battalion, wrapped up a long day’s work and prepared to head back to their temporary base of operations near Samarra, Iraq.

They were dusted with a fine desert grit that covered everything and everyone, and permeated down into their very pores. Uniforms were stained white with the salt escaping from their sweat-soaked bodies.

The men had spent their day leveling earth berms that flanked a roadway used as a military supply route—the earthen mounds were ideal for hiding the roadside bombs that represent the greatest threat to coalition forces throughout the country. At about 6 p.m. the Soldiers loaded their equipment, piled into their vehicles and prepared to head back to base.

BACK TO THE DAILY GRIND

Spc. Terry W. Dean joined the Ohio Army National Guard in part because he felt compelled following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and in part for college tuition benefits. His girlfriend of seven years, Alissa, fully supported the decision.

The former construction worker enlisted as a petroleum supply specialist with A Company’s Tarlton-based detachment in December 2001. He married his longtime girlfriend in December 2003, and deployed with his unit to Iraq in February 2004, only 24 hours after witnessing the birth of his daughter, Gracie.

“That was the hardest part, knowing that (Alissa) was going to have to be alone with a new baby and I was leaving,” he said. “I think I was more upset than she was.”

To comfort himself and help calm her fears, he called home nearly every day and when he was out on missions, would sometimes have friends call for him. As a petroleum supply specialist, Dean’s job was to fuel vehicles and equipment, but the reality of a combat deployment had the new dad conducting convoys, pulling security and filling in where needed.

In accordance with the Army’s combat stress management policy, Dean headed home on leave at the end of July. He returned to Iraq on Aug. 13, 2004, after spending a blissful two weeks getting reacquainted with his wife and bonding with his 6-month-old daughter.

Seven days later, he was assigned to a detail responsible for leveling the earth berms flanking a military supply route. After a long day’s work under the intense desert sun, he and four of his comrades climbed into the back of their convoy’s lead Humvee and the exhausted engineers headed back to base. Moments later, a violent and devastating blast swept through their vehicle, obliterating the deceptive evening calm, and changing dozens of lives forever.

Insurgents had detonated a roadside bomb that destroyed Dean’s vehicle and killed two of his friends and fellow unit members, 1st Lt. Charles L. Wilkins III of Columbus and Spc. Ryan A. Martin of Mount Vernon. The blast wounded three others, including Dean, who was in shock and didn’t immediately realize he was injured—until his driver yelled back to ask if everyone was OK.

“I looked down and saw my leg sitting beside me,” Dean said. “I looked back at him and said ‘No, I’m missing my leg.’ The next thing that went through my mind was ‘I get to go home to my girls.’”

HOME SWEET HOME

About 12 hours later and more than 6,000 miles away, Alissa and Gracie Dean, along with Alissa’s best friend Dara Gullette, returned home from a shopping trip to the local Wal-Mart. Alissa heard the telephone ring as she walked in the front door of her Hillsboro home and tossed her keys on the table. She picked up the receiver and the man on the other end of the line identified himself as Lt. Col. Robert Bramlish, the rear detachment commander for the 216th Engineer
Buckeye Guard Winter 2006/2007

Page 22

Dean reported to Beightler Armory in Columbus to begin his new job on Jan. 17, 2006, the day after he was medically discharged. As the state’s transition assistance advisor, he acts as liaison between the military and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and advocates for Ohio’s Soldiers and Airmen. His main focus is walking his fellow veterans through the benefits process—one with which he is familiar.

“I love it. It’s a great opportunity to assist other veterans,” Dean said. “Instead of sitting around at home, I can help other vets get what they’ve earned. I kind of get to give back.”

Life After Loss

Although he admits the incident in Iraq changed him, Dean is determined not to let the loss of his leg interfere in his everyday life.

“I don’t know that I let it affect me. I’m fat; that’s about it,” he quipped. “I don’t let it keep me down. I still do everything that I did before. My wife and daughter help keep me positive.”

Both Alissa and Terry have no regrets, they said. Terry is a stronger person with a better appreciation for life and their family is closer than ever, Alissa added.

“We’re proud Americans,” she said. “He loved serving his country and he believed in what he was doing. If he didn’t, I’m sure it would have been much harder.”

Initially, Terry didn’t allow himself to dwell on the loss of his friends, instead concentrating his energy on recuperating and bonding with his family.

“For the first year or so, I was so busy that I didn’t have time to really think about it,” he said. “It’s harder now. I think about them all the time. I get emotional; I tear up all the time.”

Terry maintains contact with several of his former unit members and said he feels a strong sense of connection with both the Army and the individuals with whom he served.

“My only concern was that he was young. He was only 25,” Bramlish said. “Most of his counterparts in other states are 35 to 38 years old. His job is complex; it’s master’s degree work. But Terry was the guy. He was the right person for the job.”
He sat on a lawn across the street from the town cemetery, one of his favorite spots, and peered down over the gentle rolling slope to the empty field below. It was a pleasant, peaceful spring day in the small midwestern town in April 2005, but his thoughts were several thousand miles away, with U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan serving in the Global War on Terrorism.

A retired Vietnam veteran from Sunbury, Ohio, Jerry Jodrey served 26 years in the military. He spent eight years on active duty before transferring to the Ohio Army National Guard and spending the remainder of his career with the 16th Engineer Brigade and retiring as a master sergeant.

As he pondered the current conflict and reflected back on his own service, a thought struck Jodrey. He wanted to find a way to honor this new generation of combat veterans.

“They waited so long after Vietnam to build a memorial,” Jodrey said. “It was not a very popular war and Soldiers were not recognized for the job they had done. So I didn’t want to see another 40 years go by to recognize our current war veterans.”

Jodrey first needed a place to build the memorial, so he began by enlisting the help of Mike O’Brien, the city administrator. O’Brien, who had served in the Army Reserve, invited Jodrey to look over possible plots of land owned by the Village of Sunbury. Oddly enough, the first piece of property O’Brien showed him was the same piece of land he had peered down upon only weeks prior when the idea to build a memorial first struck him. After looking at several other properties, Jodrey realized the initial property was ideal.

The pair drew up a proposal and submitted it to the city’s board of administrators, who voted the same evening to donate the land as well as a granite monument. With a suitable property in hand, Jodrey began forming the Ohio Fallen Heroes (OFH) committee, drumming up financial support and soliciting volunteers to help construct the memorial park.

George Parker, a local architect, donated his time, expertise and staff to design the memorial park for the Ohio Fallen Heroes organization. The Sunbury Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8736 donated the first $16,000. The initial contribution was spent to raise a flagpole and begin construction on the park’s first phase, which in addition to the flagpole, included an Ohio-shaped granite monument designed by the OFH committee, as well as landscaping and concrete sidewalks.

The project’s second phase, scheduled for completion July 1, 2007, includes a field of marble crosses inscribed with the name, rank, branch of service and date of death for all Ohio servicemembers lost in the Global War on Terrorism. It will also include a chapel, a Courtyard of Honor housing an eternal flame, and a bronze sculpture in the shape of a traditional fallen Soldier memorial, with boots, rifle, helmet and dog tags. The total estimated price of the park’s physical construction is $450,000.

The project’s final phase consists of a scholarship fund for the children of Ohio’s fallen servicemembers, and an operating and maintenance expense fund.

For a $35 donation, individuals can purchase a brick, which will be used to construct the Courtyard of Honor, to pay tribute to any Ohio veteran, living or deceased. The brick will be inscribed with the veteran’s name, rank, branch of service and dates of service or conflict.

The memorial park’s location, only nine miles from the geographical center of the state, makes it ideal for such a tribute. The Village of Sunbury’s small-town atmosphere also made for a fitting location, Jodrey said.

“Most of our servicemembers come from small towns,” Jodrey said. “Our National Guard and Reserve troops dropped their burdens by the wayside and picked up a rifle to defend their country. When the call came, they answered it. I wanted to do something to make sure they would never be forgotten.”

For Jodrey, the memorial park has taken on a life of its own. He spends most of his time coordinating with volunteers and committee members and soliciting donations to complete the project. He visits the site often, and talks about “his” veterans as if they were his own family members.

On this afternoon, he slowly strolls through the field of crosses. He lovingly tends to the markers, uses his thumb to wipe dirt off one, then walks to another inscribed for Army Lt. Col. Dominic “Rocky” Baragona. He points to it and explains the two small rocks resting on the cross. Several members of Baragona’s family live in Florida, but his father travels up periodically on business. On his latest trip, he brought mementos from family members—two rocks bearing messages from family members.

“To Our Rock, Love always, Mom and Dad,” reads one. “To Rocky, our hero forever,” reads the other.

He stops for a moment, collects himself, and points to another cross. As he ambles toward it, he begins talking about Airman’s mother, whom he spoke with at the dedication, points to another and talks about the family members of that Marine, more than 20 of them, who also attended.

He looks up at the sound of tires crunching on gravel. Bowman has returned and with him is Gene Fuller, another project volunteer, who is in charge of construction. The men are all smiles as they greet one another and give updates on their progress.

“I think it’s the right thing to do,” Fuller said of his volunteer work. “I’m honored to have a part in it.”

**Story and Photo by Sgt. Kimberly Snow, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

If you would like to donate, order a brick, volunteer your services or learn more, call (740)965-2162 or visit the official website at [www.ohiofallenheroes.org](http://www.ohiofallenheroes.org).
Top recruiters earn kudos at annual R&R banquet

COLUMBUS—Elite Soldiers of the Ohio Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion were honored for their outstanding performance during fiscal year 2006 at the unit’s annual banquet.

Staff Sgt. Mark C. Campbell was recognized as Ohio’s recipient of the “Chief’s 54 Award,” an achievement earned by the top producer in each state and territory in the nation. Campbell, who is assigned to the Southeast Recruiting Area, accessed 32 Soldiers into the OHARNG during FY06.

“It feels great to have this honor, knowing that you are the top recruiter in your state out of 144 great recruiters,” Campbell said. Ohio’s cadre of recruiters closed out the year with 2,237 new Soldiers, making FY06 the best recruiting year in Ohio Army National Guard history.

Though he also received the “Superior Performance Non-prior Service Recruiting Award” and the “Top Producer College Market Recruiter Award,” Campbell indicated that earning all the accolades didn’t factor into his year-out plan. “I was given a mission and that was my first goal.”

“Staff Sergeant Campbell is a team player with true job commitment,” said Southeast Area 1st Sgt. Doug Reed. “He believes in what he is doing and effectively communicates this to all he comes in contact with each day.”

Reed also represented Ohio in an NCO-IC-level strength maintenance competition this year, vying for the “Master Seven Award” in Recruiting and Retention Area Command IV. His Southeast Team of recruiters won Ohio’s “Private Roger Young Top Recruiting and Retention Area Team Award” based on various performance criteria accomplished throughout the year.

Congratulations were also in order for Staff Sgt. Theodore J. Kester, who was named the Buckeye Recruiting Battalion NCO of the Year.

“I feel that taking care of Soldiers and being the type of leader that Soldiers can look up to and respect will lead to nothing but positive things in all aspects of my career,” Kester said. “The quality of Soldiers that our command is turning out in our RSP companies shows the high caliber of leaders in each and every company and sets the standard a bit higher each and every drill.”

The following individuals also were recognized for strength maintenance excellence in specified areas of achievement: Staff Sgt. Kevin L. Hollenbacher was named “Rookie of the Year” for achieving the highest overall percentage of mission accomplishment during the first year of recruiting and retention eligibility; Staff Sgt. Ty Cetinciftci received the “High School Recruiting Excellence Award” for achieving the highest total number of high school junior/senior enlistments; Sgt. Vanessa A. Hickling earned the “Sgt. 1st Class Richard Daniels Minority Recruiting Award” for having the highest total number of minority enlistments in FY06, and she also received the “Superior Performance Female Recruiting Award” for achieving the highest total number of female enlistments; Sgt. 1st Class Michael G. Ray was presented with the “Sgt. 1st Class Jay M. Bentley MEPS Guidance Counselor of the Year Award” for standing out as the counselor who far exceeded the job requirements in placing new Soldiers in the right position in the Ohio Army National Guard; and Sgt. 1st Class Paul A. Kirby, 324th Military Police Company, was recognized as the “You Can Challenge” winner for the fiscal year, having referred seven potential Soldiers who enlisted in the Ohio Army National Guard.

Army National Guard looks to build officer team from within its ranks

COLUMBUS—Soldiers from nearly every unit within the Ohio Army National Guard attended an Officer Candidate School (OCS) kickoff event Nov. 4 at Beightler Armory.

Because Ohio is short more than 100 company-grade officers, state leadership asked each company-size unit to send at least one candidate. The event informed enlisted Soldiers about the opportunity to become commissioned officers.

“Ohio National Guard Soldiers represent the very best of what we have in...
our communities,” said Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio’s assistant adjutant general for Army. “The best way to build our team is to build it from within.”

Kambic referred to enlisted Soldiers as his “talent pool” and challenged them to develop further leadership skills.

OCS training concentrates on subjects including ethics, military justice, physical fitness, logistics, communication, personnel administration, tactics, patrolling and nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) training.

Candidates may choose between the traditional school, a 16-18 month course of instruction conducted at the 145th Regional Training Institute in Columbus or an accelerated OCS program. The accelerated option offers an eight-week active-duty course from June to August at select locations throughout the United States. For more information, call Capt. Fred Garcia at (614) 336-7077.

SCPD CHAD MENEGAY / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

Warrant officer’s motto helps him guide others to become WOCs

COLUMBUS—“Persistence Will Prevail, Sir!” shouted Warrant Officer Candidate Gerald Minor to the WOC School cadre when called to attention.

In 2002, WOC Minor was 52 years old and one of 10 Ohio Army National Guard Soldiers trying to complete active-duty WOC school at Fort Rucker, Ala.

Not only did now-Chief Warrant Officer 2 Minor complete the course five years ago, but he was one of only four, from the original group, to do so. Minor is currently on an active-duty special work tour, serving as OHARNG warrant officer strength manager.

In addition to the WOC school at Fort Rucker, the OHARNG now hosts a WOC course through the Regional Training Institute, located at the Hickering Air National Guard Base in Columbus. This new course allows Soldiers, who have previously been unable to pursue the active component course, to earn the rank of Warrant Officer in a primarily IDT status.

Minor is often able to reassure Soldiers who are reluctant to pursue the WOC program by telling them his own story.

“If a simple old West Virginia guy like me can tough it out, a young smart Soldier like you will enjoy the challenge,” he tells them.

With those Soldiers who are either still unsure or don’t currently meet the entry criteria, Minor is more than glad to do some career analysis with them. “It’s never too late to try to make yourself a better Soldier…” he said.

For more information on becoming a warrant officer, contact Minor at (614) 376-5017 or (888) 299-8285, or by e-mail at gerald.minor@us.army.mil.

CPT FRED GARCIA / OHARNG OFFICER SRENGTH MAINTENANCE

Toledo-based 180th Fighter Wing civil engineers deploy overseas to Iraq

TOLEDO—More than 250 people filled the Baker Building at the 180th Fighter Wing Jan. 3 to say goodbye to 40 members of the 180th Civil Engineering Squadron deploying to Iraq.

The CES members will maintain base facilities in the Baghdad area, which includes upkeep of everything from air conditioning and ventilation systems at the base to maintenance of roadways and buildings. The deployment is expected to last about six months.

“Just ready to serve, do our time,” said Master Sgt. Heath Laprad, 180th FW CES branch chief. “We have a great group of guys we’re going with.

Through the work of the 180th CES Family Readiness group leader, Jennifer McNutt, and other volunteers, the deploying members, their friends and families enjoyed a meal provided by organizations from the community of Whitehouse.

The USO of Northern Ohio provided cake, Teddy Bears for the children and deployment bags for the servicemembers.

180TH FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ohio National Guardmembers go distance in Columbus Marathon

COLUMBUS—More than 7,700 national and international runners braved the cold in the 27th annual Columbus Marathon Oct. 15, navigating a downtown course.

The 40-degree temperatures tested athletes’ bodies as many huddled for warmth prior to the start of the race, which featured both the full 26.2-mile marathon, and for the first time, a 13.1-mile half marathon.

About 80 of the chilled competitors were servicemembers from the Ohio National Guard (Army and Air), who ran, in part, to support the National Guard’s involvement in the race.

“Through this event, Soldiers and Airmen feel a little more pride in what they do and in being a U.S. servicemember,” said Chief Master Sgt. Chris Muncy, the state command chief. “Also, many community members have never met a Soldier or Airman and we want to get them out here in front of them.”

The Ohio National Guard co-sponsors the annual event, which provides a great medium to be seen positively in the public eye, said Diane Farrow, marketing director for the Recruiting and Retention Command.

Ohio National Guard participants, who were offered a registration fee waiver and ran in both the marathon and half-marathon events, also benefited from the physical training involved in preparation.

“I wish I had started to prepare a little earlier, although I increased my mileage for training and the (Army physical fitness training) helped me stay loose for the race,” said 1st Lt. Claudio Garcia of the Newark-based 211th Maintenance Company. “I don’t know if I’ll run the half or the full (marathon) next year, but I’ll do something.”

Garcia, who was the Ohio National Guard’s top finisher in the half marathon event, completing it in 1 hour, 33 minutes, 59 seconds, said community members enjoy seeing their Citizen-Soldiers in uniform.

Capt. Christopher Sopko, a C-130 pilot with the 179th Airlift Wing, was the Guard’s top full marathoner, finishing in 3:11:05.

For more in-depth coverage of the marathon and videos, log on to www.ohionationalguard.com.

SPC RYAN A. CLEARY / 196TH MOBILE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT

TSgt. Brian Rozick, of the 180th Fighter Wing Civil Engineering Flight, shares a moment with his daughter at the unit’s farewell ceremony Jan. 3 in Toledo. The engineers deployed to Iraq in support of the Global War on Terrorism.
Troop’s actions earn him award

STOW—Spc. Alvan Gray finished training with his honor guard team and headed to the mall with his wife, Jessica, to buy a gift for her birthday, which was the following day.

However, on the way to the mall, he instead found himself in the backseat of a mangled vehicle with a wounded 3-year-old boy who also had a birthday the following day.

“I just happened to see a car that was heavily damaged,” Gray said. “A truck had run into the passenger side. I didn’t see any emergency assistance around. The accident looked pretty fresh—people were still getting out of their cars.”

Gray, a medic with the Stow-based Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 145th Armored Regiment, ran to the vehicle and reacted on instinct.

“I looked in the backseat passenger side of the vehicle and there was just blood everywhere,” he said. “I looked to see where the blood was coming from and it happened to be a little kid who was in there, he was still in his car seat.”

Gray climbed into a backseat covered with blood and glass fragments, and began treating the young boy who he later found out would be 4 years old the following day.

“He had severe lacerations on his right forehead,” Gray said. “His mouth was completely lacerated—blood was coming out everywhere. I looked in his mouth. I made sure there wasn’t any glass in there. I treated his head wounds with a jacket, I applied pressure and I held his C-Spine (Cervical Spine).”

Gray explained that when a person suffers a blunt force injury, such as being in a car accident, it’s easy for the neck to crack or break. If the victim moves their neck in any way, it’s easy to shatter vertebrae, which can cause paralysis.

While waiting for help to arrive, Gray talked to the child and calmed him down while the grandmother, who had been driving and was uninjured, stood outside the vehicle.

“While I’m in their car, trying to make sure he was still breathing, me and him had a cool little talk for about 15 minutes until EMS arrived,” he said.

Although it seemed like a long time to Gray, he estimated emergency medical services arrived about 10 to 15 minutes later. After seeing that Gray had control of the child and the bleeding, two of the paramedics stuffed towels around the child’s head, taped him to the car seat and slowly carried him to the ambulance.

When the ambulance left, the fire captain on the scene thanked Gray for his actions. Gray and his wife then went to the hospital to check on the boy’s status. The boy received stitches and was discharged from the hospital after two days.

Gray, who served four years in the Marine Corps before joining the National Guard in 2001, was awarded the Ohio Commendation Medal for his actions that day during his unit’s holiday celebration Dec. 2, at the Stow Armory.

Staff Sgt. John Shaw, the military funeral honors regional coordinator for Gray’s honor guard team, was happy to see Gray receive the award.

“Soldiers need to be recognized for doing the right thing and he did what he was supposed to do,” Shaw said. “He was just happy that he could help—he calmed the grandmother down and helped keep the kid calm.”

Gray is currently attending Stark State University where he is studying to become a paramedic, but eventually wants to become a firefighter. He said he wouldn’t have been able to help the young boy if he hadn’t received military medical training.

“He was such a brave little kid,” he said. “It was probably one of the most rewarding things I’ve ever done in my life.”

Springfield Airman finishes tops in class at USAF intelligence school

GOODFELLOW Air Force Base, Texas—After six months of strenuous training, Master Sgt. Brian Schaefer, of 178th Fighter Wing, Detachment 1, completed the Technical Applications Specialist technical training at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, to become the Air National Guard’s first such-trained specialist.

Schaefer completed the course as the top graduate with an overall course average of 99 percent. He is continuing his training at Goodfellow with a follow-on specialized
Rendezvous, a weekend retreat hosted by the North Dakota National Guard.

The lucky five were Nichole Adams of Clinton, daughter of David Adams, a Master Sgt. assigned to 1st Battalion, 107th Cavalry Regiment; Britni Green of Newark, daughter of Master Sgt. Gregory Green assigned to the 121st Air Refueling Wing; Lisa Lloyd of Mt. Vernon, daughter of Robert Lloyd, a retired Ohio Army National Guard master sergeant; Jacqueline Mayer of Cincinnati, daughter of Lt. Col. Todd Mayer assigned to 2nd Squadron, 107th Cavalry Regiment; and Darryl “D.J.” Walters of Hilliard, son of Senior Master Sgt. Darryl Walters assigned to the 164th Weather Flight.

The youth were among 318 high school juniors and seniors selected nationwide based on written essays which they submitted through the event website. The topic of the 1,000 to 1,500 word essays was the relevance of today’s Army Values to the historic Lewis and Clark expedition. The event was free for all contest winners and chaperones.

Walters said he learned a lot during the trip, and it afforded him the opportunity to exhibit the Army values he wrote about in his qualifying essay.

After nearly 30 years of military service, SFC Michael Sheppard, of Detachment 1, 1486th Transportation Company and the shop chief at Field Maintenance Shop (FMS) # 1 in Mansfield, retired in February.

SGT (RET.) NEAL POWERS / CO. A, 112TH ENGINEER BATTALION

28-year Soldier recollects career as ‘shepherd’ of men in wartime, peace

WOOSTER—Michael Sheppard was right where his country wanted him in 1967—sitting in a bunker in Dong Tam, South Vietnam, at the 9th Infantry Division Headquarters base camp. Across from him was the 10-member rifle squad he led on a daily basis.

“We had just come back from a 3-5 day reconnaissance mission and we were critiquing the day’s actions,” Sheppard said.

Sheppard had been in the Army just 15 months and was already a buck sergeant, “shepherding” his men through a challenging time.

“That seems like yesterday,” said Sheppard, who just recently completed 28 years of total military service and retired in February as a sergeant first class from the Ohio Army National Guard’s Detachment 1, 1486th Transportation Company, Mansfield.

He also retires as a federal technician, with 22 years on the job, most recently as shop chief for Field Maintenance Shop No. 1, an OHARNG maintenance facility, also in Mansfield. Since his enlistment with Company A, 112th Engineer Battalion, Wooster, in 1981, Sheppard also served as a heavy equipment operator, supply sergeant, motor sergeant, platoon sergeant, first sergeant and unit administrator. SGT (RET.) NEAL POWERS / COMPANY A, 112TH ENGINEER BATTALION
$2,000 referral bonuses available for those not eligible for G-RAP

While traditional guardmembers can earn $2,000 or one year of health care for a referral through the online portal located at www.1800guard.com/ESAR or by calling 1-800-GO-GUARD, extension 3727. For applicants interested in joining the regular Army or Army Reserve, the sponsor must submit the referral through the SMART link at www.usarec.army.mil/smart or by calling 1-800-222-3735, extension 6-0473.

For ESAR, the first half of the bonus is paid when the Soldier begins basic training, and the second half is paid after the Soldier graduates from One-Station Unit Training or Advanced Individual Training. For G-RAP, the sponsor will receive $1,000 upon enlistment and another $1,000 upon successful shipment to basic training.

The ESAR Bonus Program cannot be combined with the G-RAP incentives. For more information on G-RAP, visit www.guardrecruitingassistant.com. DIANE L. FARRROW / OHARNG RECRUITING MARKETING

Ohio National Guard retiree earns recruit referral incentive, first in state

When Bill Dobscha began helping his daughter’s friend figure out how to finance her college education, he never dreamed he would earn $2,000 for pointing her toward the National Guard.

Dobscha, Ohio’s first retiree to earn the monetary incentive under the Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP), began talking to Katie Simons about the National Guard after she signed up to be a recruiter.

Reserve Pay for 4 Drill Periods
Unofficial Copy (Effective April 1, 2007)

YEARS OF SERVICE

| <2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |

Website, toll-free number provide free tax assistance to servicemembers

Military OneSource, the Defense Department’s reference and resource center, is now offering federal state and local tax assistance and filing services this tax season, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This is provided at no cost to active duty, National Guard and Reserve members (regardless of activation status) and their families.

For more information, log onto www.militaryonesource.com or call (800) 342-9647.

ONSGP APPLICATION DEADLINES

Fall term, July 1
Spring term/Winter quarter, Nov. 1
Spring quarter, Feb. 1
Summer term, Apr. 1

It is the responsibility of each individual student-guardmember to hand deliver or mail a completed application to the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program Office, located at the Adjutant General’s Department, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789, by the deadlines listed above.

This must be done prior to each term a student attends school. You may also renew your application online at www.onsgp.org.

For more information, call (614) 336-7032 or toll-free (888) 406-6484.
LEFT: BG Matthew L. Kambic (right), Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army, speaks after presenting SPC Brian Johnson, of the 1194th Engineer Company, with an Army Commendation Medal for his outstanding efforts as a Unit Public Affairs Representative (UPAR). RIGHT: The Camp Grayling, Mich., post commander ordered all flags lowered to half-staff June 17, 2006, to honor SFC Daniel Crabtree of the Ohio National Guard’s Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, whose funeral was held that day in Green, Ohio.

LEFT: SGT Nicholas Pavlik, a broadcast journalist with the 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Columbus, displays his Ohio State team spirit with the local children while deployed to Afghanistan in support of the Global War on Terrorism. ABOVE: Before the former governor left office, MG Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general (right) presents Gov. Bob Taft (from left) with the National Guard Association of the United States’ (NGAUS) Charles Dick Medal of Merit and former First Lady Hope Taft with the NGAUS Patrick Henry Award.

Guard Snapshots

BELOW: SSG Eric Croley and about 40 other members of the 1487th Transportation Company, along with Van Wert City Schools students and staff, loaded 13 truckloads of school furniture for a move to brand new facilities in November.

RIGHT: Maj Gen Harry “A.J.” Feucht (second from right), Ohio assistant adjutant general for Air, speaks in December with a delegation of Serbian military leaders touring the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Columbus.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- **Ohio National Guard Annual Family Readiness Conference—April 13-15, Columbus**
  This conference is open to the unit commander, military liaison and the family readiness group leadership team. There will also be programming for attendees’ children, ages 6 and older.

- **Free Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP) seminars**
  For reserve component servicemembers and their spouses or significant others. Retirees who have deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism also are eligible. Upcoming dates include April 27-28 in the Cincinnati and Columbus areas, and May 4-5 in the Cleveland area.

For more information, log onto www.ong.ohio.gov/family/ or call (800) 589-9914

Appropriately attired for a session with an Old West horse-racing theme, MG Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, speaks to guardmembers and their spouses last April at the 2006 Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Conference.