

Buckeye



Airlifter

FEBRUARY 2009

THE 179TH AIRLIFT WING, OHIO AIR NATIONAL GUARD, MANSEFIELD OH.



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Command Insight

Our moment of history

By Col. Michael J. Howard
179th Mission Support Group Commander

How quickly time flies! Already we are one month in the new year and we've hardly had a chance to catch our breath from all the fine accomplishments of last year. Just think of the inspections alone, with the ASEV, ESOHCAMP, LSET, HSI and UCI, the pace has been non-stop! Yet through all of that as well as deployments, exercises, and other missions, the men and women of the 179th continue to serve this great nation with honor and dignity as you have for the past 60 years. By the way, we also celebrated the Wing's 60th Anniversary last year. With so much history, I think it important to pause for reflection on our past history and the history that we continue to make everyday both on duty and off.

February is, for many of us, a month for reflecting on history. We recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and contribution of African Americans to our great nation. We note the struggles and sacrifices of those who wanted a better life for their children and their children's children. We've often spoken of "the dream" which just last month took a quantum leap toward being realized with the inauguration of our new Commander in Chief. It is great to take that look back but also important to take a look ahead. At this moment we should look at this moment in history and ask ourselves what are we doing to make history? If history is what got us here today, then what can we as military men and women do to affect the history of tomorrow?

We make history everyday. The question is what kind of history do we want to make? What will those who come after you say about your contribution to history? Is it something that you

can be proud of? Will it be the story you want to be told? When you tell your children and grandchildren about your military career will they beam with pride as you do when you take a historical look back? Will they say you worked hard and kept your chin up,

even in the most uncertain of circumstances? Did you do the things that needed to be done to continue our success as a community, State and Nation? Those that came before us didn't do what they did because we asked them to. They fought and struggled because they believed in something bigger than themselves. They never let go of their belief that someday "the dream" would be realized. How about us?

As we start this new year of continuing opportunities, with growing optimism, and awesome challenges, let's remember what got us here and make the kind of history that we would want the men and women of this Wing to talk about years from now. Right now is our moment of history. Let's make it great!



FEBRUARY PROMOTIONS

NEW SENIOR MASTER SERGEANTS

JAMES W. MILEY – MXS

NEW MASTER SERGEANTS

SCOTT A. BOYER – 164 AS

NICHOLAS R. DIMASSO – 200 RHS

LISA A. HAUN – AW

MICHAEL J. SCHUE – MXS

SCOTT D. SMELTZER – AMXS

NEW TECHNICAL SERGEANTS

DIANE L. BAKER – LRS

MIRANDA G. LAWRENCE – LRS

DOUGLAS L. ZEIGLER JR – SFS

NICOLE J. SHARPLEY – MXS

LUCINDA E. HOLDER – 200 RHS

SNYDER, ROBERT J. – MXS

TODD R. ASHCROFT – MXS

NEW STAFF SERGEANTS

NICHOLAS A. WALKUSKI – CES

COREY N. ALLARDING – 200 RHS

PHILIP A. BERRESFORD – AMXS

MARIO A. VARGAS – AMXS

ASHLEY M. STENGER – 200 RHS

NEW SENIOR AIRMEN

ALLYSON N. YOUNGMAN – AW

JENNA C. MILLER – MSG

ALEX J. ROEDER – CES

MATTHEW E. WILSON – AS

BENJAMIN O. TRUMPOWER – AW

JEFFREY F. NASTASI – 200 RHS

Reflection from the Chaplain Section



By Chaplain, Lt. Col. Curtiss H. Wagner
179th Chaplains Office

Many of you will remember how Tom Hanks, in the movie "Cast Away", was so affected by loneliness when he was stranded on a deserted island that he began to have conversations with "Wilson", a volleyball from one of the discarded packages. Relationships with other people are one of the most important parts of our lives.

When relationships in our family, our marriage, our jobs and even our neighborhoods are good, it helps us enjoy life to the fullest. When any of those relationships are difficult and full of conflict, it makes our life miserable.

As we approach February and Valentine's Day, we think about how important our marriage relationships are; and for those who are single, relationships with friends and family members. Valentine's Day is day when it is traditional to remember our important relationships. No matter how long we have been married or how well our relationships seem to be going, every relationship takes some ongoing care and maintenance. It is easy to begin taking those who are important to us for granted. It is easy for bad habits to slip into our relationships. Communication often begins to slip away. It is important to have a freshness in our relationships, not just once a year, but all throughout the year and that takes time, effort, and new ideas.

The military has always recognized the importance of significant relationships in the life of an airman. Now with extended deployments, there is even a greater need to take care of these relationships.

The military has developed programs that cost you absolutely nothing and

provide you with an overnight stay in a nice hotel, complete with food. These retreats are for all military members and their spouses for the purpose of keeping your marriage fresh and taking care of some of those areas where you may have tended to drift apart.

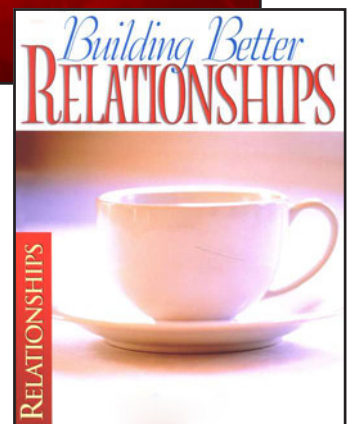
On March 14-15 at Mohican State Park and on April 19-20 in Toledo, there will be retreats to encourage you to have a strong marriage. These retreats give you a chance to examine the ways you trust in, rely on, and become intimate with each other in marriage, and the boundaries needed to protect your relationship from harm. This retreat will help keep your relationship strong and surface potential problems long before they dampen the intimacy in your marriage. Actually, our own Chaplain Shirley will be leading the retreat at Mohican State Park in March. Think of it as an investment in your future relationship. We encourage you to sign up and take advantage of this great opportunity. Contact the Chaplain's office or Family Support to register.

Attending one of these retreats does not mean you are having problems in your marriage. It means that you value your marriage enough to have an even better marriage by learning more about the needs of your mate and getting the tools to have a closer, more intimate relationship.

For those who are single, the military also is offering single's retreats to strengthen you in your relationships as well. On March 13-15, there will be a singles retreat at the Great Wolf Lodge in Mason, OH. Again it is free

and includes everything you need for the weekend.

These are some of the great benefits of being in the National Guard. Make it a priority to strengthen and deepen the important relationships in your life. You will be glad you did!



Singles Retreat



Are you a single person who likes to have fun? Would you be willing to say goodbye to the winter blues for a FREE weekend to join other singles? Then come join us for a FREE retreat for you!

•When: March 13-15

•Includes: Lodging, singles workshops, fellowship, snacks and dinner (Sat)

•Location: Great Wolf Lodge (Mason)

To register please contact the 178th Chaplain Office at 937 525-2520 or 327-2214. Hurry space is limited and it will be on a first come first serve basis!

Disclaimer: Please do not intend on becoming single to attend this event. If so please see our marriage retreats or stop by the Chaplains Office.



Have you heard about LINKS? It stands for “Lasting Intimacy through Nurturing, Knowledge & Skills”.

It is a program about keeping your marriage alive and fresh.

Chaplain Dave Shirley will be teaching two of these classes this year; so you know it will not only be a learning experience, but it will be FUN. AND, it’s all FREE!!!! You just can’t beat that combination.

So take a look at your calendars and choose a date.

March 14-15 will be right in our own back yard at Mohican State Park April 18-19 will be in Toledo in the Maumee Bay area

Keep a lookout for more information on how to sign up.

Airman’s artistic abilities shine through in “Salute Campaign”

By 1st Lt. Nicole L. Ashcroft
179th Chief of Public Affairs

Excellence. Multi-talented. Going above and beyond. These are just a few terms describing many members of the 179th Airlift Wing; particularly Airman First Class Joseph D. Harwood, who was instrumental in designing the commemorative Hometown Heroes Salute coin. Harwood’s design will be part of the largest Airmen recognition endeavor in Air National Guard history as more than 70,000 of the coins will be distributed to Citizen-Airmen who have deployed in contingencies since 9/11.

Many know Harwood as “Joey”...the Public Affairs Photographer. But what they don’t realize is all the many talents he possesses. Harwood is the epiphany of a true artist. He began his career by taking art classes at the Ohio State University; at which time an opportunity presented itself for him to work as an understudy to a fine art professional, Bill Kufahl, in Cleveland, Ohio. It was during his time with Kufahl that he developed his skills in the charcoal, pastel and oil painting mediums.

From there, Harwood was presented yet another excellent opportunity with the Richland Carrousel Park, to help them restore the painted figures. It wasn’t long after completion of the project that he decided to join the Ohio Air National Guard and try his hand in photography. Yet another artistic medium he picked up quickly and began excelling creatively.

During his time at the 179th Airlift Wing, he has taken on numerous projects in addition to the Hometown Heroes Salute coin, to include: painting the recruiters trailer, painting a large mural in the Operations Commander’s office and he’s begun working on a mural for the recruiters. In his personal time, he has started an oil



painting of our 60th Anniversary C-130; which he plans to submit for the Air Force Art Program.

To learn more about Harwood’s other artistic abilities, you can visit his website, www.customportraits.org. Visit www.ang.af.mil to learn more about the Hometown Heroes Salute program; which a number of 179AW members will receive a cherry wood encased commemorative coin and signed letter from Gen. Craig R. McKinley in thanks for their service.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Robert J. Koehler

Ops change of command

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Q. Cauvel
179th Public Affairs Journalist



On December 6, 2008, Lt. Col. Robert J. Schuett assumed command of the 164th Airlift Squadron from retiring Lt. Col. Wayne L. Snyder via a ceremony held in the Aircrew Briefing Room.

As the former 164th Director of Operations, Schuett has been a member of the 179th Airlift Wing for 22 years. He started his career with the 179th Medical Squadron before pursuing a pilot position five years later.

While Schuett's title may be new to him, his job and responsibilities are not because he held the interim commander position for a year while Col. Gary A. McCue was attending Air War College from July 2006 to July 2007.

Schuett said he looks forward to working diligently for new missions on behalf of his members while they transition through the changes resulting from the BRAC process.

Another opportunity Schuett said he eagerly awaits is the chance to help forge stronger working relationships with other units across the base.

Photos by Airman First Class Joe Harwood



NAME: Clara Elaine Ford
BIRTHDAY: January 13, 2009
WEIGHT: 8lbs 4oz
LENGTH: 20 ¼ inches
PARENTS: Jeremy & Melissa Ford

**Welcome
to the
179th
family!**



NAME: Alexandria Marie Fender
BIRTHDAY: January 14, 2009
WEIGHT: 7 lb 15 oz.
LENGTH: 20 inches
PARENTS: Mike & Jennifer Fender

The Triple Nickel

The **Triple Nickel** was the all-black 555th Parachute Infantry Company. They arrived at Fort Benning, Georgia for airborne training in December 1943. This marked a significant milestone for black Americans in the combat of arms. The "Triple Nickel" was essentially a nickname for the infantry. The nickname bears witness to a legacy of the first black airborne unit. The "Triple Nickel" was born during a time of complete segregation in the United States and it has survived to what it still stands to be.

The "**Triple Nickel**" began its trek into airborne history on December 19, 1943, as the 555th Parachute Company. Almost a year later, the unit became a battalion and included riggers, jumpmasters, pathfinders and communications soldiers. The 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion didn't deploy overseas during World War II. It was mobilized to fight a threat closer to home as "smokejumpers," airborne firefighters. Under this mission, soldiers made more than 1,000 jumps, fighting forest fires in Oregon and California, some of which were started by Japanese incendiary balloons. In December 1947 the 555th was redesignated as the 505th Airborne Infantry Regiment and assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. Members of the original "Triple Nickel" went into combat during the Korean War, joining such other airborne units as the 2nd Ranger Company and the 187th Airborne Combat Team.



Former 555th soldiers try on modern military parachutes during a visit to Fort Benning, Ga.



Capt. Jesse Mayes of the 555th's Co. B stands in a C-47's door during a 1944 smokejumper training flight.



Troops of the 555th await an equipment inspection at a U.S. Forest Service airfield in Missoula, Mont., before a 1944 smokejumper mission.

The 179th Professional Military Education (PME) journey continues...

By Chief Master Sgt. Gregory L. Eyster
179th Command Chief Master Sgt.

This past December, eight outstanding NCO's completed the SP08-2 NCO Academy (NCOA) Satellite in-residence course. 26 evening classes and two full weeks in residence culminated with these outstanding Technical Sergeants receiving their diplomas along with insightful thoughts from Air National Guard leadership.

The graduates experienced learning at a fast pace environment with demanding academics, challenging their organization and time management skills. They gained valuable insights and learned leadership lessons that will serve throughout their military careers. Additionally, they de-

veloped relationships as a class that will provide networking opportunities for years to come. As graduation commenced, several students commented that of the three methods available (full in residence, correspondence, or satellite) satellite was likely the hardest and therefore very rewarding to complete.

The NCO Academy's foundation is based upon four pillars. They are the United States Air Force Core Values; the Enlisted Force Structure; Leadership and Force Development; and Expeditionary Airman Concepts. From these pillars, NCOA expressed objectives are to "Provide the nation with military personnel skilled in the employment of aero-

space power; to provide Air Force personnel with the skills and knowledge to make sound decisions in progressively more demanding leadership positions, and develop strategic thinkers and war fighters."

We plan to offer at least one NCOA and one ALS satellite class on base each year, which can accommodate eight students or more. We encourage interested Airmen to discuss this opportunity with your supervisor or unit training manager, and to ask questions of our Satellite Facilitators and former students for a better understanding of the distance learning satellite option for completing PME.

179th 08-2 Students:

Tech. Sgt. Amy L. Abshire
Tech. Sgt. Rebecca L. Amert
Tech. Sgt. Annett I. Foust
Tech. Sgt. Todd M. Grogg
Tech. Sgt. Travis A. McBride

Tech. Sgt. Robert C. Jones
Tech. Sgt. Vince W. Schloemer
Tech. Sgt. Curtis W. Wright
Tech. Sgt. Jaclyn A. Newbert

ONGEA membership drive

Providing support for the organizations who support you...

The Ohio National Guard Enlisted Association is conducting a membership drive that provides significant discounts for E1 through E5 Airmen.

Right now, any E6 through E9 who pays the \$30 annual membership can sponsor free any E1 through E5 for a one-year membership. That \$30 grants membership in both the ONGEA and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States – EANGUS—which is the national chapter for the enlisted association.

ONGEA is the professional organization that represents the enlisted members of Ohio's Air and Army National Guard. The association pursues benefits and quality of life issues that affect the enlisted forces. Successes include in-

creasing the National Guard Scholarship Program from 60 percent to 100 percent for Ohio Guardsmen; securing tax breaks for military retirement pay for Guard veterans; enhancing enlistment and career-field specific bonuses; reducing or stabilizing member contributions to Tri-Care and pharmaceutical programs; and many other significant benefits.

To participate in the ONGEA membership drive and take advantage of the discounted dues, see any of the 179th representatives for ONGEA. They are CMSgt Tom Jones, Area Representative; CMSgt Gary Wright, chapter finance committee chairman; MSgt Mike Schaefer, chapter treasurer; and CMSgt Randy Dunham, immediate past president. The ONGEA Web site is at www.ongea.org.

**STATE OF OHIO
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
2825 West Dublin Granville Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789**

AGOH-Z

14 January 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR All OHARNG & All OHANG Units

SUBJECT: Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program

1. In accordance with AGOR 621-1 (Army) and 35-1 (Air), the deadline dates for the use of the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program have been established per paragraph 3b. In addition, each Soldier and Airman signs an agreement which contains the deadline dates for application submission. The agreement also outlines the requirement to complete a reactivation application each term. We typically have over 100 Soldiers and Airmen who miss the deadline per term.
2. Effective with the Spring Term deadline, February 1, 2009, late applications will not be accepted. In the past, the Assistant Adjutants General reviewed late applications and provided waivers based on various extenuating circumstances. That process has proved unmanageable. Applications received after the deadlines will not be approved. Applicants are encouraged to use the online submission form at www.ongsp.org which provides an automatic receipt of application that includes date and time. By using the website, our Soldiers and Airmen have the ability to apply worldwide.
3. New accessions that enlist in the Ohio National Guard past the term deadline will not be approved for the Scholarship Program in that term. Soldiers and Airmen that are delayed for basic training and meet the eligibility requirements of AGOR 621-1 (Army) or 35-1 (Air) are also required to meet the suspense dates outlined.
4. This is a leadership issue and I expect Commanders and NCOs to work with Soldiers and Airmen using the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program and place emphasis in submitting the applications in a timely manner.

///s///

GREGORY L. WAYT
Major General
The Adjutant General

Mansfield Lahm Military Families Scholarship Program

Attached is the formal application for the Mansfield Lahm Military Families Scholarship(s). Please follow all instructions carefully and attach all documents that are required. It is preferred that the application form be typed or printed as neatly as possible.

This application must be completed with all documentation attached and returned to: Mansfield Lahm Military Families, c/o Ms. Debra Robinson, 2503 Alta West Road, Mansfield, OH 44903-8232. It must be **POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN APRIL 24, 2009**. It is important that you keep to the above mentioned deadline or your application will be returned without action.

The deadline will be observed in all instances. Applications must include all required information to be considered. Application forms may be obtained in the Lobby of Bldg. 422 and or in the orderly room of each squadron.

Scholarships will be announced through the mail and proceeds will be awarded when verification of the student's enrollment has been received by the Scholarship Chairperson. Verification can be in the form of a letter, invoice, or other proof of enrollment from the student's college / university registrar's office.

Mansfield Lahm Military Families Scholarship Program and Criteria

Mansfield Lahm Military Families will be awarding five (5) \$500 Scholarships for the 2009 - 2010 academic year. An impartial panel of judges will rank the scholarship applications.

Scholarship Requirements:

The following persons are eligible:

1. Children, grandchildren and spouses of active or retired 179th AW Air National Guardsman.
2. Unmarried dependent children of deceased 179th AW ANG members who were in good standing at the time of their death.

The following persons are ineligible:

1. Current members of the National Guard.

Academic criteria:

1. Applicants must be enrolled as either a high school senior (in good standing) or a full-time student at a college, university, trade or business school in order to receive funds.
2. Must have at least 2 semesters left for degree completion.

GRADUATE STUDENTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS.

The Mansfield Lahm Military Families Scholarship Committee will award scholarship grants as approved by the MLMF Executive Board. Grants will be sent directly to the recipient with each check made payable to the recipient school of choice. To receive the grant, verification of enrollment is necessary.

Grants will be awarded on the basis of scholarship, character, leadership and need. All applications will be accompanied by:

1. Transcript of High School Credits (and college credits if applicable).
2. Letter from applicant with facts as to his/her desire to continue his/her education, comments about their individual future goals and objectives, and comments as to the value that this financial aid will afford.
3. Three (3) letters of recommendation verifying the application and giving personal traits. (High School principal, counselor, dean, professor, minister, employer, etc.)

Upon selection of recipients a photograph suitable for publication may be requested, but no photograph should be sent with the application.

If the student is granted a scholarship and fails to complete the school term for reasons other than illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstances, the student agrees to return any scholarship money to the Mansfield Lahm Military Families.

If you should have any questions please contact Bill Kohler at (419) 529-6353 or Troy Cramer at (419) 544-1297.

Scholarship Application Mansfield Lahm Military Families

NAME: _____ DATE: _____
Last First Middle

HOME ADDRESS: _____

Number Street P.O. Box or Apt. #
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____ PHONE: () _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

PARENT/SPONSOR _____

Rank Full name
ACTIVE OR RETIRED (A/R): _____ YEARS OF SERVICE (IF RETIRED): _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____ () _____
Home address/City/State/Zip Phone Number

Relationship to Sponsor Enlistment Expiration Date Unit/Squadron
(If active)

APPLICANT'S STATUS: (Check one) High School () Business/Trade School () College ()

School/College & Grade/Term _____

Have you received any other scholarships? (if so, please specify) _____

List Activities (School, Community, Church): _____

List offices to which you have been elected in Any Organization: _____

List Honors which you have been awarded: _____

List College/Trade/Business School you plan to attend or are currently attending: _____

What career are you planning to pursue and why? _____

If you need additional space to answer , please attach a separate sheet to this form.

I have answered the above questions to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Applicant/Date

Signature of Parent or Spouse/Date

If granted a scholarship and I fail to complete the school term for reasons other than illness and injury, I agree to return any scholarship money to the Mansfield Lahm Military Families.

Signature of Applicant/Date

(This application can be reproduced for applicant purposes.)



HOT OFF THE PRESS!!!!

2009 Family Readiness Program of Events

Do you want to know what is going on around the state this year?

The 2009 Family Readiness Program of Events is FULL of fun things for you and your family to do this year. Most of the events are FREE with many of the others being provided at a minimal cost.

Orderly rooms will be distributing programs to each and every member this UTA. If you don't receive yours...contact Faline Rowland at x600.

Get your copy this UTA!!

**FAMILIES
EMPLOYERS
SERVICE MEMBERS
2009 PROGRAM OF EVENTS**

For the most up to date information on military family events, visit us online at www.ong.ohio.gov/family



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AIR NATIONAL GUARD NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS ACADEMY

FY 2009 Satellite ALS

**IS IT TIME TO TAKE YOUR CAREER TO THE NEXT LEVEL?
JOIN US IN MAY 2009, WHEN ONCE AGAIN THE SATELLITE ALS ACADEMY
OPENS ITS DOORS. TAP INTO THE KNOWLEDGE BASE THAT WILL HELP YOU
HONE YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND ABILITIES.**

*****YOU CAN ENROLL IN-RESIDENCE EVEN IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY COMPLETED THE
COURSE BY CORRESPONDENCE*****

**THE CLASS IS FORMING NOW. SIGN UP WITH YOUR UETM USING AN AW12
(TRAINING APPLICATION) ACCOMPANIED WITH A CURRENT FITNESS
ASSESSMENT FORM. EACH STUDENT WILL BE PAID A PT DAY FOR EACH
NIGHT OF CLASS AT HOME STATION.**

REQUIREMENTS:

- **HOLD THE RANK OF SENIOR AIRMAN**
- **HAVE**
 - **48 MONTHS TIME-IN-SERVICE (TIS) PRIOR TO THE CLASS START DATE (OR)**
 - **42 MONTHS TIME-IN-SERVICE (TIS) AND HOLD A 5-SKILL LEVEL IN THEIR
PRIMARY AFSC**
 - **IF MEMBER IS CURRENTLY ON A 422 PROFILE – PLEASE COORDINATE**

**THE HOME STATION PHASE AT MANSFIELD: 18 MAY – 05 AUG
2009**

**MONDAY & WEDNESDAY NIGHTS TIME: 1900-2145 HOURS (TO
ACCOMMODATE CENTRAL TIME ZONE UNITS)**

THE IN-RESIDENCE PHASE (SCHOOL TLN WILL BE ASSIGNED): 10-21 AUG 09

MCGEE-TYSON ANGB TN

For More Information Contact:

CMSgt. Greg Eyster 419.520.6578

MSgt. Heidi Bishop 419.520.6821

SMSgt. Steve Mock 419.520.6399

OR YOUR UNIT TRAINING MANAGER



AIR NATIONAL GUARD NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS ACADEMY

FY 2009 Satellite NCOA

**IS IT TIME TO TAKE YOUR CAREER TO THE NEXT LEVEL?
JOIN US IN MARCH 2009, WHEN ONCE AGAIN THE SATELLITE NCO
ACADEMY OPENS ITS DOORS. TAP INTO THE KNOWLEDGE BASE THAT WILL
HELP YOU HONE YOUR LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND ABILITIES.**

***YOU CAN ENROLL IN-RESIDENCE EVEN IF YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY
COMPLETED THE COURSE BY CORRESPONDENCE**

**THE CLASS IS FORMING NOW. SIGN UP WITH YOUR UETM USING AN AW12
(TRAINING APPLICATION) ACCOMPANIED WITH A CURRENT FITNESS
ASSESSMENT FORM. EACH STUDENT WILL BE PAID A PT DAY FOR EACH
NIGHT OF CLASS AT HOME STATION.**

REQUIREMENTS:

TSgt-No MINIMUM T.I.S. & 7 LEVEL

(If Member is currently on a 422 Profile specific coordination is needed)

THE HOME STATION PHASE AT MANSFIELD: 3 MARCH – 21 MAY 2009

**TUESDAY & THURSDAY NIGHTS TIME: 1900-2145 HOURS (TO
ACCOMMODATE CENTRAL TIME ZONE UNITS)**

CLASSROOM TBA

THE IN-RESIDENCE PHASE (SCHOOL TLN WILL BE ASSIGNED): 26 MAY – 10 JUNE 09

MCGEE-TYSON ANGB TN

For More Information Contact:

CMSgt. Greg Eyster 419.520.6578

MSgt. Heidi Bishop 419.520.6821

SMSgt. Steve Mock 419.520.6399

OR YOUR UNIT TRAINING MANAGER

12 MYTHS ABOUT YOUR DoD/VA BENEFITS

For Guard and Reserve members

(Revised 11 08)

1. After I return from OIF/OEF, I need to have my dental work (as part of my VA benefit) completed before the end of the 180 day period.

False. Fact: The 180 day period refers to enrolling in the VA and making the dental appointment within 180 days of the REFRAD date, but you are NOT required to have all of your dental work completed before 180 days!

2. If I receive disability compensation from the VA, I will be discharged from the National Guard.

False. Fact: You can be a traditional National Guard member and receive VA disability compensation. However, you cannot receive VA compensation for the same time period that you receive military pay. For typical 'traditional' Guard members, this means 63 days of military pay (48 UTAs and 15 AT). Any Active Duty Operational Support Guard program (aka ADSW), RMA, etc. counts as military pay as well. If you are AGR or mobilized, you will be receiving military pay 24/7, and must stop VA compensation immediately, or you will become indebted to the Federal Government.

3. I am receiving 40% disability compensation from the VA and have heard that I will be discharged if I am receiving more than 30%.

False. Fact: Although there is something in the enlistment contract about 30%, that does not apply to you because you are not enlisting! The percentage of disability compensation from the VA does not affect your membership in the National Guard. However, you must pass the physical examination for the NG – “fitness for duty exam or ability to perform your duty” – this is what will determine if you are retainable. And always record accurate information on the Annual Medical Certification. There is a block that asks if you are receiving disability compensation from Social Security, VA, Workers Comp, etc. These are government documents and to give an untrue answer is deemed as committing fraud and then neither DoD (Department of Defense) or VA is going to be chomping at the bit to take care of you.

4. VA does Retirement Physicals.

False. Fact: They do not. Guard members often confuse the Compensation and Pension Exam as being a retirement physical. However, if there is a VA/DoD Sharing Agreement, the VA Medical Centers may be requested by DoD medical facilities to assist with these service retirement physicals, but these instances are rare. **Note:** Under the Benefits Delivery at Discharge Program, DoD will accept the VA's physical as their retirement physical. If the Service Member has already done a VA Compensation and Pension exam, they can get a copy of it and use it as their retirement physical.

5. If I am injured in a car accident, my TSGLI benefits will reduce the amount of my SGLI in the event of my death at a later time.

False. Fact: Payment of TSGLI has no impact on the amount of SGLI payable. For example, if a Service Member is insured for \$400,000 of SGLI coverage and receives a TSGLI payment of \$50,000 for a traumatic injury, that member is still insured for the full \$400,000 of SGLI coverage, which will be paid upon the Service Member's death.

6. As a National Guard member, I heard that my SGLI coverage is only good while I'm at drill.

False. Fact: If you are a National Guard member and have been assigned to a unit in which you are scheduled to perform at least 12 periods of inactive duty that is creditable for retirement purposes, full-time SGLI coverage is in effect 365 days of the year. You are also covered for 120 days following separation or release from duty.

7. I cannot go to the VA Hospital for a service-connected problem because I have private health insurance.

False. Fact: You may enroll with the Department of Veteran Affairs for healthcare benefits regardless of your private health insurance plan. You may, depending upon the circumstances, have to make a co-payment for treatment for non-service connected conditions. Your private insurance may be billed for non-service conditions as well.

8. If I am a Service Member returning from theater and do not have a job, I am not eligible for Unemployment Compensation.

False. Fact: Although the Unemployment Compensation benefit varies among states, you may be eligible in your state for unemployment insurance. Usually the states provide these temporary wage replacement benefits to qualified individuals who are out of work through no fault of their own. Check it out! Also check out your state benefits which may include employment benefits and job placement assistance, too.

9. I need to pay enrollment fees to take advantage of the new Post-9/11 GI Bill.

False. Fact: There are no enrollment fees to receive benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

10. If I file for my VA compensation then I have automatically enrolled in the VA Healthcare System.

False. Fact: The process to apply for VA compensation is separate from the process to enroll in the healthcare system. To enroll you must complete a 10-10EZ and submit it in person, online or via the mail to your nearest VA hospital. It must be signed before you submit it. It is also wise to have a copy of your DD214 to verify your active duty status and theater of deployment for combat vet eligibility for enhanced healthcare and other benefits. Additionally, if you submitted your military medical records with your disability claim, it is not available to the hospital. For VA healthcare enrollment, it is also necessary to bring copies of any of your medical records so that they can be scanned into the VA's VISTA electronic record system.

11. Service Members and their families are not eligible for Pre-activation Benefits (Early Eligibility) TRICARE.

False. Fact: Guard and family members are eligible once the SM receives mobilization alert orders, is within 90 days of deployment and all are currently enrolled in DEERs. Special note: if you think there is a possibility that you may be found not fit for duty, you should keep your civilian health insurance until you are found fit for duty. Remember that when you return from this deployment, you are eligible for 6 months of TRICARE TAMP for your and your family healthcare needs (enrollment is not automatic – see your Transition Assistance Advisor or TRICARE representative for details). VA healthcare covers only Veterans for 5 years from the REFRAD date.

12. I am enrolled in the TRICARE healthcare program and am automatically covered for dental care.

False. Fact: Enrollment in TRICARE does not cover your dental care. The TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) is offered by the Department of Defense (DoD) and you must purchase this benefit from United Concordia, which administers the program. (www.tricare dental program.com)

Contact your Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA) for more information on your benefits and entitlements. To find the TAA in your state, go to www.taapmo.com/TAAProgram.htm.

Your Transition Assistance Advisor is:

**John D. Labash Program Manager NGB Transition Assistance Advisors Skyline Utd Inc SDVOSB 703-373-2320
John.Labash@Skyline-Utd.com**

179th Members participated in Wounded Warrior Challenge

By Staff Sgt. Jessica Q Cauvel
179th Public Affairs Journalist

Recently, members of the 179th Airlift Wing lent a hand to raise money for wounded military members. Staff Sgt. Joshua Blakley, a recruiter for the 179AW, led the members in a competition at the Richland Mall on December 13, 2008 in effort to help fund the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP).

According to Blakley, WWP is the leading non-profit organization providing tangible comfort and support to our severely injured service men and women returning from war.

According to the WWP website, the project provides “backpacks to injured service members containing essential care and comfort items including clothing, toiletries, calling card, CD player, and playing cards, all designed to make their hospital stay more comfortable.”

“They are provided to severely wounded service members arriving at military trauma centers. A smaller version of



the WWP Backpacks, Transitional Care Packs, is sent directly to Iraq and Afghanistan to provide immediate comfort during a warrior’s relocation to the U.S. military trauma center,” the website stated.

During the challenge, members helped by competing in push-up, sit-up and pull-

up competitions. Some members also helped by wrapping holiday shoppers Christmas gifts for donations.

The eight hour event raised approximately \$2,300. An additional \$2,300 was raised prior to the event, according to Art Hoffman, an event coordinator.

Photos provided by Art Hoffman

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
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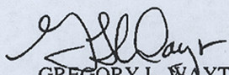
AGOH-Z

4 December 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Interim Privacy Act Policy

1. Pursuant to the Memorandum, SUBJECT: Protection of Personally Identifiable Information (PII), dated 6 August 2007, and the Governor’s Management Directive, dated November 21, 2008, all leaders are responsible to protect the PII and sensitive personal information of our Soldiers, Airmen, and employees.
2. Subject to further policy guidance, all requests for information that includes PII or sensitive personal information; media inquiries, subpoenae, and notices of deposition, will be reviewed before release by the JFHQ-OH Judge Advocate’s office. If time doesn’t permit formal review by the JFHQ-OH Judge Advocate’s office, then Wing or Brigade Judge Advocates may acquire verbal approval from the JFHQ-OH Judge Advocate’s office. Requesters seeking information to calculate child or spousal support from military personnel or Federal employees will be referred to DFAS-Cleveland at 888-332-7411.
3. Point of Contact is LTC Duncan Aukland at x7258.


GREGORY L. WAYT
Major General
The Adjutant General

Airman Spotlight

By Airman 1st Class Dustin Edgell
179th Public Affairs Knowledge Manager

Senior Airman Sabrina Roberts

Senior Airman Sabrina R. Roberts is member of the Logistics Readiness Squadron (LRS) dealing with all the supply shipments on base. Roberts has been a member of the 179th Airlift Wing for two years. She decided to join the Ohio Air National Guard because she wanted to travel, serve the country and what we stand for, and utilized the benefits available to help further her education. Roberts decided on the 179th AW because she is from Mansfield, Ohio.

Roberts is a traditional guardsman who is a full time student at Mercy College of Northwest Ohio; where she is majoring in Radiology. She plans to graduate in 2010, at which time she'd like to find a job with a hospital out of state. In her free time she enjoys playing volleyball and softball.



Senior Airman William R. Clark

Senior Airman William R. Clark works a variety of tasks for the 179th Security Forces Squadron. Clark has been with the 179th for approximately a year; after serving nearly four years within the United States Army. One of his friends that was raised around the military sparked his initial interest in joining. Clark currently lives in Ashland where he works full time as a firearm sales representative. He plans to utilize the Ohio National Guard Education benefits to obtain his college degree; which he plans to utilize in order to move forward in his career with the 179th Airlift Wing.

In his free time Clark enjoys going to a firing range, the movies, and hanging out with his friends and family. Camping and basic survival training are a few more interesting hobbies that he also enjoys.

Check out one of the BEST healthcare insurance plans available!

Monthly Premiums Decrease for TRICARE Reserve Select

Effective Jan. 1, 2009, TRICARE will reduce the rates for TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS). Monthly premiums for TRS individual coverage will drop 44% from \$81.00 to \$47.51, and TRS family coverage will drop 29% from \$253.00 to \$180.17.

The 2009 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), section 704, required TRICARE to analyze Reserve Select costs from 2006 and 2007, and set new rates for 2009.

“Now that TRS has been in place for several years, we were able to calculate premiums for 2009 from actual cost data obtained in earlier years,” said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director of TRICARE Management Activity. “It is important to provide high quality and affordable healthcare coverage for our National Guard and Reserve families.”

Established in 2005, TRS is a premium-based health plan for National Guard and Reserve personnel available for purchase by members of the Selected Reserve who are not eligible for or enrolled in Federal Employee Health Benefit plans.

TRS provides a health plan option to members of the Selected Reserve and their families when they are not on active duty status. The TRS plan delivers coverage similar to TRICARE Standard and Extra to eligible members who purchase the coverage and pay monthly premiums. TRS also features continuously open enrollment.

“It’s an excellent health care option we are proud to offer,” Granger said.

For more information about TRS visit the TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricare.mil>.

About TRICARE Management Activity and the Military Health System TRICARE Management Activity, the Defense Department activity that administers the health care plan for the uniformed services, retirees and their families, serves more than 9.2 million eligible beneficiaries worldwide in the Military Health System (MHS). The mission of the MHS is to enhance Department of Defense and national security by providing health support for the full range of military operations. The MHS provides quality medical care through a network of providers, military treatment facilities, medical clinics and dental clinics worldwide. For more about the MHS go to www.health.mil.



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Stories or story ideas may be submitted to the Public Affairs Office for publication consideration in the Buckeye Airlifter. Information should be emailed to nicole.ashcroft@ohmans.ang.af.mil. The Buckeye Airlifter is a monthly publication.

MARCH 09 DEADLINE: Sunday 8 Feb 09

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