

FEBRUARY 2010

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Operation Unified Response FIRST RESPONDERS IN HAITI HAITI

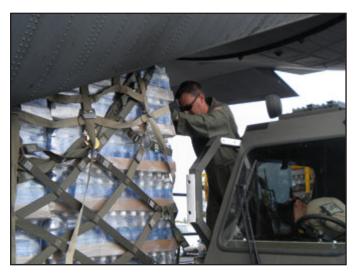




179th assists with Haiti relief efforts

By Capt. Nicole L. Ashcroft 179th Chief of Public Affairs





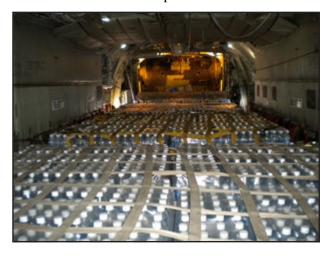
As many stood poised around the country ready to answer the call, the Ohio Air National Guard had already provided two C-130 "Hercules" cargo aircraft from the 179th Airlift Wing to provide immediate assistance to Haiti.

The 179th originally deployed to Puerto Rico during a planned rotation in support of Operation Coronet Oak—a U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) theater airlift support mission—on Dec. 26, 2009. The rotation of 45 Airmen arrived Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010. The troops were under command and control of SOUTHCOM on a federally funded mission.

Three days after the rotation of Airmen arrived in Puerto Rico, the powerful magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit neighboring Haiti. The same evening, SOUTHCOM placed three crews from the 179th on alert and early the following morning they activated the first crew, which was airborne within three hours. The aircraft flew to Florida to collect search and rescue teams and communication crews and deliver them to Port-au-Prince. Shortly after, a second crew was alerted and airborne.

The first crew, led by Lt. Col. Kenneth Pecoraro, arrived in Port-au-Prince as the sun was setting Wednesday evening and landed successfully, despite challenging terrain and a downed communication tower. The Ohio National Guard C-130 was the first such aircraft to land in Port-au-Prince. The second crew, commanded by Lt. Col. William Baulkmon, arrived after sunset with three pallets of communication materials to improve departure and approach communication at Port-au-Prince airport.

In addition, three Puerto Rico Air National Guard aircraft were tasked to the 179th Airlift Wing for this operation. For nearly two weeks, the crews worked tirelessly to support the Haiti earthquake relief efforts by transporting nearly 309 short tons of cargo, 141 disaster evacuees, 2 working dogs and 113 pallets of essential supplies. They accomplished this over 37 missions and 79 operational sorties that totaled 194 flight hours.





Photos provided by Lt. Col. William Baulkmon

Satellite NCOA provides a balance

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

Most senior members of the military will agree that every Airman should attend at least one of their Professional Military Education (PME) courses in-residence. Some believe that when a member attends these courses, they receive a level of education and hands on experience that cannot be duplicated by completing the alternative Career Development Courses (CDCs). However, many guard members have difficulty leaving their civilian jobs and home life long enough to complete the weeks of PME in-residence classes.

Satellite courses were developed to help guard members get an in-residence experience while training at their home base for the majority of their coursework. Recently, seven members of the 179th Airlift Wing attended the Satellite Non-Commissioned Officer Academy (NCOA) by completing 12 weeks of training at the base twice a week then completed their training at McGee-Tyson Air National Guard Base in Tennessee for two weeks.

Tech. Sgt. Nicole R. Wagoner, a recent NCOA graduate, said she decided to take the satellite course because she did not want to leave her family and did not feel she would have the time to devote in the CDC course. She said the satellite class gave her a chance to immediately use the course's management technique in her daily job. Wagoner believes the course provided a better experience and greater learning than what she would have received in-residence where she would have waited six weeks to practice the new skills.

Both Wagoner and her classmate, Tech. Sgt. Lisa M. Athy, agreed that the networking opportunities they received at the 179 AW

and McGee-Tyson ANGB were extremely valuable. Athy said the class bonded during their home station-training block, then when they were split up at McGee-Tyson, they had an opportunity to bond with their counterparts from throughout the Air National Guard.

Another point that Athy and Wagoner agreed on was that the satellite course is not an easy way to complete the course, as is a widespread misconception. They said that the home station block added to the end of their regular work days and the training at McGee-Tyson was very fast paced with assignments due each day.

Both Airmen said that members considering the satellite course should speak with someone who has recently completed the training before committing to the course. They will gladly answer questions for those who are considering the course.



FEBRUARY PROMOTIONS

NEW MASTER SERGEANTS:

Daniel B. Hall – 179 AMXS Gregory S. Finding – 200 RH

NEW TECHNICAL SERGEANTS:

Joshua D. Brashears – 200 RH Det 1 Jeremiah S. Cedoz – 200 RH Edwin D. Nagel Jr. – 200 RH Jeffrey S. Kapser – 200 RH Kenneth R. Figel – 200 RH Daryl A. Walters – 200 RH

NEW STAFF SERGEANTS:

Jared B. Lemmings – 200 RH Det 1 Kyle J. Ray – 164 AS Kenton M. Oakley – 200 RH Det 1

NEW SENIOR AIRMEN:

Mikkinzi R. Oneil – 179 FSS Ian A. Wamboldt – 179 MXS John J. Milius – 200 RH Jacob A. Batesole – 200 RH Rachel M. Dunham – 179 AW

Honor the fallen

Deployed broadcaster preserves dignified transfer for families

By Mr. Ed Drohan

Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations Center Public Affairs

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. – A dignified transfer is a solemn event that signifies the return of a fallen service member to the United States. It is especially poignant for their family members, who are often present on the tarmac as the transfer case holding their loved one is carried from the aircraft to an awaiting vehicle.

It's the memory of that poignant moment that Master Sgt. Bob Jones has been preserving on video while deployed to Dover Air Force Base, Del.

As a member of the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operation Center public affairs staff, Sergeant Jones has recorded more than 170 dignified transfers on video and produced DVDs for family members who have requested them. It's a job the Ohio Air National Guardsman takes very seriously.

"The feeling you get when you hear the family and sense their loss, just the sacrifice that's been made for all of us," Sergeant Jones said, his voice cracking with emotion. "Every little bit we do here honors that sacrifice."

Sergeant Jones lives in Mansfield, Ohio, and is co-owner of media creation company DRM Productions. He's a graduate of Denison University in Granville, Ohio, and is the 179th Airlift Wing's noncommissioned officer in charge of broadcasting. His experience – more than 30 years shooting and editing video – has been extremely useful during his two deployments to the center since May.

"When I go out there I know what the camera can do. I know how the tripod works. I know what shots I need to get. There's no indecision," Sergeant Jones explained. "I know what I need to do to come out with a quality product."

That product – a 9-12 minute video documenting the dignified transfer event – is usually given to the person escorting the fallen service member home. The escort will present the DVD to the family, a fact that Sergeant Jones always keeps in mind as he's capturing the event and editing the scenes captured by two to three different videographers into something that families can cherish.

"There are a lot of families with kids who aren't going to know their mom or dad," Sergeant Jones said. "At some point they're going to look at that DVD and say 'that's daddy.' People who couldn't be here (for the dignified transfer) can look at it in years to come and get a sense of the honor and respect paid to that person."

Sergeant Jones arrived just after the Department of Defense changed the longstanding policy of not allowing recordings or photos of dignified transfers. One of his first jobs was to help determine what equipment was needed and he was instrumental in developing and refining the template that is used today for producing the videos. After an initial 90-day deployment, he

returned in October to assist when the center's operations tempo increased.

At one point, he said, the video team was shooting 30-40 dignified transfers a month. Oftentimes they were working 14-16 hour days, seven days a week to ensure each family who requested coverage received a quality product.

Before he volunteered, he talked it over with his wife and with his business partner. Neither had any objections.

"You could see it in their faces – it was hard to say no when they understood what I was going to do here," Sergeant Jones said. "It would have been easier for them to say 'I wish you didn't have to go' if I was going to the desert. When you know what we do here – how do you say no to that?"

The work Sergeant Jones has done for the families of the fallen has been recognized by his peers and his supervisors alike.

"Sergeant Jones has been a valued part of our public affairs team," said Lt. Col. Les Carroll, AFMAO public affairs officer. "His expertise and professionalism have led to improvements in our processes and products that wouldn't have been possible without him. He will be missed when he returns to Ohio, but the mark he's made on our operations will remain for years to come."

All the hard work is worth it for one simple reason, Sergeant Jones said.

"I know the work we're doing here will have value for many years to come, and that's important."



Master Sgt. Bob Jones, a 179th Airlift Wing broadcaster. Videotapes the arrival of the official party during a dignified transfer event at Dover Air Force Base, Del., as the transfer vehicle and guide wait in the background. While deployed to the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations Center, Sergeant Jones shot and edited videos for more than 170 dignified transfers of fallen service members for presentation to their family members. U.S. Air Force photo by Jason Minton



Antidote Treatment – Nerve Agent, Autoinjector ATNAA

Description

The Food and Drug Administration-approved ATNAA (NSN 6505-01-362-7427) is a 2-chambered autoinjector used for the intramuscular injection of the nerve agent antidotes atropine and 2-pralidoxime chloride (2-PAM) through the same needle. The ATNAA is administered after onset of symptoms to treat nerve agent toxicity. The ATNAA is a replacement for the currently fielded MARK I Nerve Agent Antidote Kit that delivers the same two drugs but requires two separate autoinjectors.



Mission

Treat the effects of nerve agent exposure to allow warfighters to survive an otherwise lethal exposure.

Capabilities

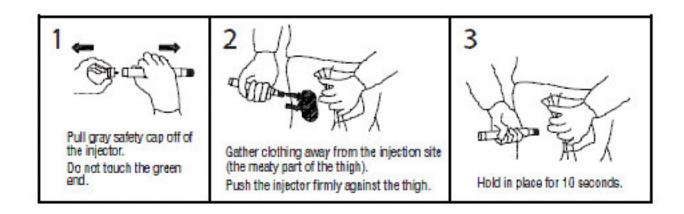
- Treats the effects of nerve agent intoxication.
- Improvements over the Mark I: Easier to use, delivers antidotes faster, takes less space, and costs less.

Users

US Navy, US Marine Corps, US Army, US Air Force

Status

Sustainment





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 William H. Kohler, 25 Oxford Avenue, Mansfield OH 44906. It must be **POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN APRIL 23, 2010.** 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 six (6) \$500 Scholarships for the 2010 - 2011 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 and 200th RHS DET 1 Air National Guardsman.
- 2. Unmarried dependent children of deceased 179th AW ANG & 200th RHS DET 1 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.

Scholarship Application Mansfield Lahm Military Families

NAME:				DATE:
Last	First		Middle	
HOME ADDRESS: _				
		treet		P.O. Box or Apt. #
CITY:	STA	ATE:2	ZIP CODE:	PHONE:()
DATE OF BIRTH:				
PARENT/SPONSOR	Dank	Eull a am		
	YEARS OF SERVICE (IF RETIRED):			
HOME ADDRESS:				
	Home address/	City/State/Z	iip	Phone Number
Relationship to Sponsor		Enlistm (If activ	•	Unit/Squadron
APPLICANT'S STAT	US:(Check one		•	Trade School () College ()
	, ,	, ,	. ,	() ()
School/College & Gra	.de/Term			
II		a la i a a 2776		
Have you received any	other scholars	Snips !(if so	, please specify)	
List Activities (School,	Community, Chu	rch):		
List offices to which yo	ou have been el	ected in Ar	ny Organization: _	
List Honors which you	have been aw	arded:		

List College/Trade/Business School y	ou plan to attend or are currently attending:
What career are you planning to pursu	ue and why?
	wer , please attach a separate sheet to this form.
I have answered the above questions to	o 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 co return any scholarship money to the Ma	emplete the school term for reasons other than illness and injury, I agree to ansfield Lahm Military Families.
Signature of Applicant/Date	

(This application can be reproduced for applicant purposes.)



Financial assistance for your spouse

Program Description

The Department of Defense (DoD) Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA) program provides up to \$6,000 of Financial Assistance for military spouses who are pursuing degree programs, licenses or credentials leading to employment in Portable Career Fields.

Website: http://www.militaryonesource.com/MOS/FindInformation/Category/MilitarySpouseCareerAdvancementAccounts.aspx

Program SponsorOffice of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community & Family Policy (DUSD/MC&FP)

Who Is Eligible

Spouses of DoD Active Duty members and federally activated members of the National Guard and Reserve Components are eligible. The period of eligibility for spouses of Guard and Reserve members is from the date of the Alert or Warning Order for Military Recall or Mobilization, through activation and deployment until 180 days following De-Mobilization.

Defense Eligibility and Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) is used to determine if a spouse is eligible. It is the service members or service members commands responsibility to ensure the information in DEERS correct. MyCAA can not correct information contained in DEERS and a spouse will not be determined to be eligible until they pass the DEERS screen.

Military spouses who are legally separated by state law or court order are ineligible. Spouses who are Active Duty or activated Guard or Reserve members themselves are ineligible because they have their own education benefit programs. Unfortunately, Public Law 110-417 Sec 582 does not allow MyCAA to provide education benefits to Coast Guard spouses.

What MyCAA Pays For

MyCAA Financial Assistance (FA) pays for education and training programs, tuition, and licensing/credentialing fees. This includes degree programs (e.g. associates, bachelors, masters, doctoral and post doctoral), continuing education classes (including those offered through professional associations), Bar, CPA and other similar exams, and state certifications for teachers, medical professionals and other licensed occupations. If the cost of a course includes books, supplies or equipment necessary for the performance of the spouse's chosen occupation (e.g. cosmetology or masonry tools, electrician operations manual, etc.), MyCAA will pay these costs if not billed separately. MyCAA also pays for High School Completion courses, GED tests and English As A Second Language (ESL) classes.

What MyCAA Does Not Pay For

MyCAA does not pay for education and training programs that include computers (CPUs or laptops); application, graduation or membership fees; student activity cards; child care; parking; transportation; or medical services. If a spouse enrolls in a course without an approved MyCAA Financial Assistance (FA) document, the spouse will be responsible for paying course costs. MyCAA does not provide reimbursements of any kind.

How MyCAA Financial Assistance (FA) Works

A military spouse can request MyCAA Financial Assistance (FA) for all approved courses on the spouse's Career and Training Plan.

A Career and Training Plan includes the spouse's Portable Career Field, name of school and course information (course titles, codes, costs and start/end dates). If incorrect information is provided, the MyCAA Financial Assistance (FA) request will be rejected during the school invoicing process. If rejected, the spouse will be held responsible for paying course costs.

- FA requests are initiated each time the spouse adds course start/end dates that begin within the next 90 days.
 - It is critical that spouses select the correct school name/campus location and input correct course information into their Career and Training Plan to prevent billing problems. This information should be validated by school officials prior to the spouse requesting MyCAA Financial Assistance (FA).
 - Courses listed in the spouse's Career and Training Plan may be dropped up until the course start date. Courses may be added up until 7 days past course start dates if allowed by school Drop/Add policies.
 - Course information listed in Career and Training Plans is used to validate school invoices for payment purposes. Schools may charge penalty fees, partial or full course costs for dropped courses according to their published Drop/Add policies. Spouses need to be familiar with these school policies.

How to Get Started

Eligible spouses can establish a MyCAA Account by visiting the MyCAA website (https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa). Once spouse profile information is provided, MyCAA will verify spouse DEERS eligibility. Eligible spouses will be allowed to create their Career and Training Plan and request Financial Assistance (FA) when they are within 90 days of course start dates. Additionally, spouses are responsible for applying to their selected school or program and enrolling in each course included in their approved MyCAA Career and Training Plan(s). Spouses must NEVER give out their password to their MyCAA account; doing so would violate Federal law.

Who Can Help Spouses

Military spouses can help themselves by:

- Visiting the MyCAA website <u>https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa</u> and establishing an account.
- Developing a Career and Training Plan and validating information with school officials prior to submitting a Financial Assistance (FA) request to prevent billing problems.
- E-mailing <u>MyCAA@InvernessTechnologies.com</u> for MyCAA website technical support. School Academic Advisors can help spouses:
 - Select a school, program of study, and sources of licensing and certification exams.
 - Select classes for their MyCAA Career and Training Plan. School officials need to validate school and course information to avoid billing problems.

Military OneSource Career and Education Consultants (1-800-342-9647) can help spouses:

- Explore career interests, evaluate school options, and compare programs of study.
- Develop and implement their Career and Training Plans successfully.

Who Can Help Schools Register for MyCAA

Schools should contact MyCAA School Liaisons at 1-888-256-9920 or e-mail <u>MyCAASchools@MOSCenter.us</u>. These two resources are for SCHOOL OFFICIALS ONLY and <u>must not</u> be used by spouses. If spouses use these resources they can cause significant delays and prevent themselves from receiving MyCAA Financial Assistance (FA).



It's finally here. Our Marriage Enrichment Retreats have been published.

Registration is now open for the following FREE retreats: PREP, LINKS and Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage (LYW). Registration is available at www.jointservicessupport.org. If you are not a member of the Joint Service Support website, please register as soon as possible. I will approve your requested role and you'll be able to sign up. This new site has taken the place of Guard Family Programs web site.

Instructions on how to register are attached and a link to register is available on the Family Readiness website at www.ong.ohio.gov/family

PREP stands for Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program. All of us can improve our skills when it comes to loving the most important person in our life. Every couple starts off their relationship committed to make it

work. Unfortunately, many of us simply do not know HOW to accomplish a healthy and fulfilling marriage. PREP can provide concrete strategies and tools to build a rewarding marriage.

LINKS is a follow-on Marriage Enrichment Weekend. If you have already attended a PREP weekend you may want to attend a LINKS weekend. LINKS stands for Lasting Intimacy through Nurturing, Knowledge and Skills. Through the use of the relationship Attachment Model couples will learn to attain balance in their relationship. LINKS is a different approach to marriage enrichment but with the same goal as PREP; a better marriage.

LYW (Laugh Your Way) is the newest addition to the MES program. This fun, interactive seminar uses personality profiles, forgiveness techniques, along with humor and honesty to help couples deal with tough issues in a non-threatening manner. LYW will prove that the keys to a successful marriage are hard work and relationship skills.

Another positive change this year is the "Early Admission" option for all Marriage Enrichment Seminars. PREP Plus, LINKS Plus, and LYW Plus will host early (night before) admission. When making reservations please annotate PREP Plus, LINKS Plus, or LYW Plus to register for the optional three day seminar.

The dates and locations for the 2010 Retreats are available on the attached flyer, on the Family Readiness website and on the registration website at www.jointservicessupport.org

These events are FREE and attendees may be able to attend in lieu of a drill weekend with commander approval. For more information, call Faline Rowland at 419-520-6600.

JSS Event Registration Guide for Strong Bonds Events

We are currently experiencing some issues with the Joint Services Support Website. To assist you in the registration process, please follow the steps below in order to view Ohio's events.

- 1) Register for the JSS website at www.jointservicessupport.org. (You will not be able to view Ohio's events immediately; you will have to wait until an administrator approves you. Typical approval time is less than 24 hours Monday through Friday; expect longer approval times over the weekends.) We are working with the system administrators to fix this issue so that in the future there will be NO wait between site registration and the ability to view the events for Ohio.
- 2) 24 hours after registration, log onto the JSS website.
- 3) Click on the Events tab
- 4) You should now see the events for Ohio

If the event that you wish to view is over 6 months in the future you may not be able to view it immediately. To view events that are over 6 months away use the following steps.

- 1) In the **Events List** view, click the **Show Options** tab just above the search bar.
- 2) In the Show Options tab:
 - a) Ensure that the From and To dates contain the date of the event that you are looking for.
 - b) In the Location, select Ohio
 - c) In the Program, select FP
 - d) Click Filter

At this time you should be able to see all Family Program events in Ohio for the selected dates.

- 3) Click on the event you wish to attend to view the Event Details.
- **4)** In the **Event Details** view, click **Register** to sign up for the event and fill in the required fields.

Once you have registered for an event you will receive a confirmation email generated by the JSS team. If you registered for the Optional Friday Night Check-in (Plus Option) it will NOT be referred to in the confirmation email.

Three weeks out from the event you will receive a call from a Family Programs Staff Member. At that time they will confirm your attendance at the event, and verify whether or not you are registered for the Plus Option. Once the registration period ends, you will receive an email with more specific information for the event you are attending.



2009 Tax Preparation Services for Military Members

You have many choices when the time comes to file your 2009 tax return. We have highlighted 3 programs which offer free or discounted tax services. **Each program has its own eligibility criteria.**

Operation: CPA - CPAs throughout Ohio have volunteered their time and expertise to prepare 2009 tax returns free of charge for deployed Ohio residents this filing season. Military personnel who are Ohio residents currently deployed outside of the state, (not necessarily deployed to combat theater) will qualify for free preparation of their 2009 individual or joint local, state and federal



personal tax returns. To take part in *Operation CPA*, qualified service personnel or their spouse or family member may call The Ohio Society of CPAs toll-free at **888-959-1212 or e-mail <u>cpanswers@ohio-cpa.com</u>**. Military personnel will be matched with a CPA volunteer.

Military OneSource – Starting January 18, 2010 Military OneSource will provide free tax-filing services (H&R Block At Home online tax filing (formerly H&R TaxCut) to service members and their spouses regardless of activation status. The MOS program includes online state and federal tax-filing services and tax consultations by phone. Beginning January 18, 2010 users can access these free services through the Military OneSource home-page at www.militaryonesource.com. Please do not try to register in advance by accessing the H&R Block tax-filing service web site directly. Keep in mind that Military OneSource can help tame your tax stress with expert advice on planning, on tax issues specific to service members, and sound ways to use your refund. Our expertly prepared articles, booklets, recordings and worksheets on tax filing and other financial matters can be accessed on the Military OneSource home-page at www.militaryonesource.com and click on the "Find Information" and then click on "Money Management" under the Financial & Legal category.

 2009 Tax Preparation Services
 Operation: CPA
 Military OneSource

 Service Members Status
 Operation: CPA
 Military OneSource

 Current Service Members Deployed
 Free
 Free

 Current Service Members Not Deployed
 NA
 Free

 Veterans
 NA
 NA

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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.

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Chief of Public Affairs	Capt. Nicole Ashcroft
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