

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



## OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

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### Serving in Antarctica: A Chaplain on Ice

Story by Tech. Sgt. Nic Kuetemeyer  
180th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

TOLEDO, Ohio — It is the coldest, driest, and windiest place on Earth. There is no further or more remote deployment military personnel can be sent on. Operation Deep Freeze takes Air National Guard members 2,400 miles south of New Zealand and is a scientific operation, not a military one.

But the Air National Guard has two unique assets at its disposal that are necessary to the success of the U.S. Antarctic Program; the special ski-equipped LC-130 transport aircraft from the 109th Airlift Wing in Schenectady, New York, and the Air National Guard Chaplain Corps.

“We can provide something unique,” said Maj. Pete Drury, chaplain at the 180th Fighter Wing in Swanton, Ohio. “We can provide what a full civilian or a full military person can’t.”

Drury was one of three ANG chaplains selected to be sent to the bottom of the world for this very special, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Once a chaplain has completed a mission there, they will not be selected again.

“One of the cool things that an ANG chaplain can provide is that we understand and can accommodate the secular person and the person who has a non-religious spirituality,” Drury said, with a characteristically broad smile. “Because a non-religious person still has spiritual needs. We have a unique capacity to provide that.”

The Antarctic Program’s mission is to not only expand knowledge of the continent itself but to also further research on climate changes, space and many global issues of scientific importance. The remote and diverse community is made up of civilians, government officials and employees, scientists, graduate students, contractors and military personnel.

Even though caring for and catering to the many different needs of the community may sound like a challenge, it’s a challenge that Drury relishes. And the town of McMurdo doesn’t disappoint in presenting that challenge. With a population of about 850, McMurdo’s citizens come from all types of non-religious and religious backgrounds, Drury said. “We’re not just there for the ANG folks who are flying the LC-130s, we’re there for the town,” Drury said, explaining that he did not wear his uniform six out of seven days a week. “The people who go to Antarctica aren’t your usual demographic. You get to work with, I think, the most interesting and eclectic people on Earth.”

Drury recounted stories to explain just how eclectic and interesting the people really are in McMurdo. When he first arrived, a support worker from the town was showing him around, helping him get acclimated to his surroundings. “I told him I wanted to know where everything was around town. So he’s pointing out ‘these people are in this building, that’s the electrical shop,’” Drury said. “And all through the conversation he’s talking about Socrates and Plato, history, science and philosophy. It’s almost a university feel.”

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U.S. Air Force chaplain Maj. Pete Drury stands atop Castle Rock, about an eight-mile hike from the town of McMurdo, with Mount Erebus in the background. Drury completed a deployment to Antarctica in support of Operation Deep Freeze, which in turn supports the U.S. Antarctic Program scientific research efforts. (Photo courtesy of Maj. Pete Drury)

(cont. on pg. 4)

## Troop & Family Camps available for Guard members, Family members

Troop & Family Camps are designed for the whole Family to spend a fun-filled weekend together strengthening ties and building camaraderie with other Military Families. Be sure to check the specific details for each camp on our website, as each camp has different activities, then pick the camp that best suits your Family . Who defines your Family? You do. Each camp will provide a unique experience. Activities that may be available at your selected camp are: waterskiing, sailing, kayaking, bike riding. Family games, crafts, campfires, high ropes, zip line, canoeing, hiking, basketball, archery and fishing.

*Note: Due to the popularity of these events please limit your Family to 1 Family camp per year.*  
\$75.00\* per Family for the first four people, then \$10 per additional person.

May 29 - 31	St Louisville: <a href="#">REGISTER Online</a> (registration now open)
June 12 - 14	Clinton: <a href="#">REGISTER Online</a> (registration now open)
August 21 - 23	Hamilton: <a href="#">REGISTER Online</a> (registration opens May 20)
August 21 - 23	Bellefontaine: <a href="#">REGISTER Online</a> (registration opens May 20)
August 28 - 29	Kelley's Island: <a href="#">REGISTER Online</a> (registration opens May 20)
September 25 - 26	Wheelersburg : <a href="#">REGISTER Online</a> (registration opens May 20)

To enhance event safety and security for you and your Family the exact location of this event will be provided immediately after registration is complete. General locations listed are within 20-30 miles of the event to allow initial planning. If you have additional questions regarding this practice please contact Andrew Seward, Lead Child and Youth Coordinator at 614-336-7274 or [andrew.j.seward.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:andrew.j.seward.ctr@mail.mil).

Troop & Family Camps are designed for the whole Family to spend a fun filled weekend together strengthening ties and building camaraderie with other Military Families. You and your Family will enjoy the new Summit County venue. Lodging is provided. Each family will be given access to a cabin with single beds.

This program is open to current members of the Guard, Reserve and Active Duty.

**All Registration Fees are Non-Refundable**

## Farewell and Best Wishes to Maj. Gen. Ashenhurst



Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman (left), Ohio's 82nd adjutant general, presents the Ohio Distinguished Service Medal to Maj. Gen. Deborah A. Ashenhurst, Ohio's 81st adjutant general, during Ashenhurst's farewell dinner March 28, 2015, at the Bridgewater Conference Center in Powell, Ohio. Bartman took over as adjutant general on Jan. 10 from Ashenhurst, who now is serving as special assistant to the vice chief of the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C. (Staff Sgt. Sean Mathis, ONG)

**DID YOU KNOW?**

April is the Month of the Military Child. This awareness month was established to underscore the important role children play in the Armed Forces community. There are approximately 2 million military children, ranging in ages from newborn to 18 years old; 1.3 million military children are school-aged. Care of military children sustains our fighting force and strengthens the health, security and safety of our nation's Families and communities.

**CEREMONIES & DINING OUTS****APRIL 11****216th Engineer Battalion  
Change of Command**

2154 Narrows Road  
Chillicothe, Ohio  
Time: 10 a.m.  
Outgoing: Lt. Col. Jennifer Mitchell  
Incoming: Lt. Col. Andrew Stone

**147th Regiment (RTI)  
Training and Doctrine Command  
(TRADOC) Accreditation  
Ceremony**

3990 East Broad Street  
DSCC Bldg. 1  
Columbus, Ohio  
Time: 11:00 a.m.  
R.S.V.P. to Maj. Bob Lytton at 614-336-4550 or  
[robert.e.lytton.mil@mail.mil](mailto:robert.e.lytton.mil@mail.mil)

**Annual OCS Dining Out &  
147th Regimental (RTI) Ball**

5462 Center Street, Hilliard, Ohio.  
Social Hour: 6 p.m.  
Dinner: 8 p.m.  
RSVP: OC Derek Moore at  
[derekmoorej05@gmail.com](mailto:derekmoorej05@gmail.com) or  
614-542-7889

**APRIL 12****1191st Engineer Company  
Change of Command**

1620 Coles Boulevard  
Portsmouth, Ohio  
Time: 1 p.m.  
Outgoing: Capt. Evan Washburn  
Incoming: 1st Lt. Coleman Johnson

**1191st Engineer Company  
Change of Responsibility**

1620 Coles Boulevard  
Portsmouth, Ohio  
Time: 2 p.m.  
Outgoing: 1st Sgt. Kenneth White  
Incoming: 1st Sgt. Paul Mcilwaine

## Military, Veteran Families and children

Military children are our nation's children. Living in either military or civilian communities, in urban, suburban or rural settings, military children experience unique challenges related to military life and culture. These include deployment-related stressors such as parental separation, Family reunification and reintegration. Due to frequent moves, many military children experience disrupted relationships with friends and must adapt to new schools and cultivate new community resources. Some children also experience the trauma of welcoming home a parent who returns with a combat injury or illness, or of facing a parent's death. Recent research reveals an increase in military child maltreatment and neglect since the start of combat operations and deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Research also indicates that although most military children are healthy and resilient, and may even have positive outcomes as a result of certain deployment stressors, some groups are more at risk. Among those are young children; some boys; children with preexisting health and mental health problems; children whose parents serve in the National Guard, are reserve personnel, or have had multiple deployments; children who do not live close to military communities; children who live in places with limited resources; children in single-parent Families with the parent deployed; and children in dual-military parent Families with one or both parents deployed.

Equipped with the right tools, military parents can serve as a buffer against the challenges their children face.

Professionals in health care, Family service, education, recreation and faith-based services who work with military Families can also help reduce the distress that military children experience, and can foster individual and family resilience.

Care of our nation's military children helps sustain our fighting force, and helps strengthen the health, security and safety of our nation's Families and communities.



<http://www.nctsn.org/resources/topics/military-children-and-families>

## Tuition help for military children

Like all parents, service members often need help to pay the high cost of college tuition. Fortunately, many scholarships, assistance programs, and benefits exist just for the children of service members. In addition to more traditional forms of aid, in-state tuition is now available in some states for service members' children who couldn't get these lower rates before. Beyond the tuition costs, a once-a-year travel benefit is available for some students with military parents assigned outside the continental United States. Tuition funds are available if military Families know where to look. The following information will point you in the right direction. ([www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov))

### WHERE TO START

Many programs require the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. This form is required when applying for most types of federal aid. Some schools and scholarships also use it to screen applicants for tuition assistance. Students fill out the FAFSA, but parents also must provide financial information if the student is their dependent. The form requires the previous year's tax return and other tax information for the student and parents, as well as bank statements and investment information. There are critical deadlines involved in completing the FAFSA, so it's best to check the website many months before the student plans to start school.

Families also may find helpful information at [FinAid: The SmartStudent® Guide to Financial Aid](#) and [Scholarshiphelp.org](#)

*April 2015 Regional Inter-Service  
Family Assistance  
Committee Meetings:*

**Region 1 - 23rd**  
**Region 2 - 15th**  
**Region 3 - 21st**  
**Region 4 - 28th**  
**Region 5 - 14th**  
**Region 6 - 9th**

For questions regarding the time or place of RIS-FAC meetings, contact Lt Col Kathy Lowrey at (614) 336-7002.

## Retirement Packets

If you are an Ohio Air Guard/Reserve or an Ohio Army Guard/Reserve retiree, contact Sgt. 1st Class Richard Wright at 614-336-7277 for assistance in submitting your retirement packet **nine months before your 60th birthday**, or at whatever age you become eligible to begin receiving non-regular retired pay. If you find you are missing any documents for your packet, contact Ms. Jeanette Carter at 614-336-7038 (ONG HQs). Once you complete your packet, mail it to the following address for processing:

**U.S. Army Human Resources  
Center of Excellence - Fort Knox  
ATTN: AHRC-PDR-TR  
1600 Spearhead Division Ave.  
Dept. 420  
Fort Knox, KY 40122-56402**

## A Chaplain...

(cont. from pg. 1)

It was summer for the six weeks he was “on the ice” and Drury didn’t see a sunset until he was back in New Zealand. But snow rarely melts in Antarctica, not even to give way for a run. “I did a half-marathon on the ice shelf. I did a 10k the first week I was there,” said Drury proudly. “When the ice starts to melt, it gets slushy. But not like it gets slushy in Ohio. It’s a dry slushy, it’s more like running in sand.”

The “summer” in Antarctica might be hard to imagine for people living in the Northern Hemisphere, particularly when you remember that’s the holiday season. Not only did Drury provide over a hundred counseling sessions, weekend services, and guaranteed the free exercise of religion for all faiths represented, he also provided holiday services.

“Over the holidays they get a big boost in morale. That’s the second part of what we do, providing for other religious traditions,” Drury said. “The Jewish community said they had the best Hanukkah in 20 years. We were featured in the BBC’s ‘Hanukkah in Antarctica.’ One pilot mentioned that this year’s Hanukkah was the next best thing to being home.”

Providing for other religious traditions and non-religious spiritual needs of military members is something that National Guard chaplains do every day they wear a uniform. But because he has a civilian side himself, Drury found he was well prepared to provide for the non-military needs as well. “That comes from being in the Air National Guard. The military provides the awareness and the mindset on how to do the neutral part. The civilian side helps us better connect with the civilian population,” Drury said. “We have a unique niche that provides this. This is a time when we really hit our stride.”

Drury said that while military members are accustomed to the idea of privileged communication, a civilian is not. They are not readily familiar with the non-religious counsel a chaplain can provide. “A civilian needs to be told, ‘You can talk to us in complete confidentiality,’” Drury said. “But once they find that out, they talk about whatever they need.”

In a stark, unforgiving, and austere environment like Antarctica, a chaplain’s counsel can be in high demand. The harsh reality is that on an island as big as the continental United States and Mexico combined, with limited medical facilities, the danger of injury or even death is ever-present. Bereavement and grief counseling are part of what the chaplains are there to do.

But the landscape can provide a certain dazzling beauty as well. Drury spoke reverently about the Chapel of the Snows, the southernmost facility dedicated to worship in the world, as being one of the most unique places he’s ever been to. “It overlooks Mount Discovery. You look out the back and you see this spectacular Trans-Antarctic mountain range.”

Drury’s time there might have been short, but it is clear he cherished every minute he was there. Drury’s favorite part of the trip was being with the people in McMurdo. He couldn’t speak highly enough of the people there. “You get this amazing group, I love that. In a lot of ways, I felt like I had the easiest six weeks out of the whole season.”



# Troop & Family Camps ~ *Building Strong Families*



## WHICH CAMP IS RIGHT FOR MY FAMILY?

May 29-31, 2015

### LICKING COUNTY

Enjoy the beautiful rolling hills with other families in this fun filled weekend of hiking, canoeing, kayaking, High Ropes Adventure tower, archery and farm.

Cost: \$75 for a family of four and \$10 each person above four.

[www.regionline.com/MayFamilyCamp15](http://www.regionline.com/MayFamilyCamp15)

August 21-23, 2015

### BUTLER COUNTY

Every member of your family has something to do at this campground! Enjoy high/low ropes, a giant swing, canoeing, fishing, hayrides and a huge jumping pillow!

Cost: \$75 for a family of four and \$10 each person above four.

[www.regionline.com/ButlerFamilyCamp15](http://www.regionline.com/ButlerFamilyCamp15)

August 28-30, 2015

### ERIE COUNTY

Join other families in this water filled weekend of boating, sailing, kayaking, fishing, tandem bicycles, swimming pool and field games.

Cost: \$75 for a family of four and \$10 each person above four.

[www.regionline.com/ErieFamilyCamp15](http://www.regionline.com/ErieFamilyCamp15)

June 12-14, 2015

### SUMMIT COUNTY

Got fun? It's here! This fun filled weekend of adventure includes horseback riding, Alpine tower rope courses, canoeing, swimming and more.

Cost: \$75 for a family of four and \$10 each person above four.

[www.regionline.com/JuneFamilyCamp15](http://www.regionline.com/JuneFamilyCamp15)

August 21-23, 2015

### LOGAN COUNTY

Get to know other families around the campfire. Swim, boat or enjoy some horseback riding, archery, climbing wall, giant swing and zip line. We have something for everyone.

Cost: \$75 for a family of four and \$10 each person above four.

[www.regionline.com/LoganFamilyCamp15](http://www.regionline.com/LoganFamilyCamp15)

September 25-27, 2015

### LAWRENCE COUNTY

Too big of a camp to not wear you out walking around! High ropes course, mini golf, indoor rec. center, fishing, field games and more!

Cost: \$75 for a family of four and \$10 each person above four.

[www.regionline.com/SeptFamilyCamp15](http://www.regionline.com/SeptFamilyCamp15)

Troop and Family Camps are designed to be low cost fun for the whole family!

Spend a fun filled weekend strengthening ties within your own family and building camaraderie with other military families.

All cabins have single beds but each camp has different specifications and activities for your family to enjoy so make sure you choose the camp that best suits your families' needs.

We ask you to kindly attend ONLY ONE camp per year due to popularity of these opportunities. For your convenience we have reached across Ohio and are offering campgrounds in each region.

Activities at each camp ground may vary slightly due to funding variations throughout the year.

*We can't wait to see your family at camp this year!*

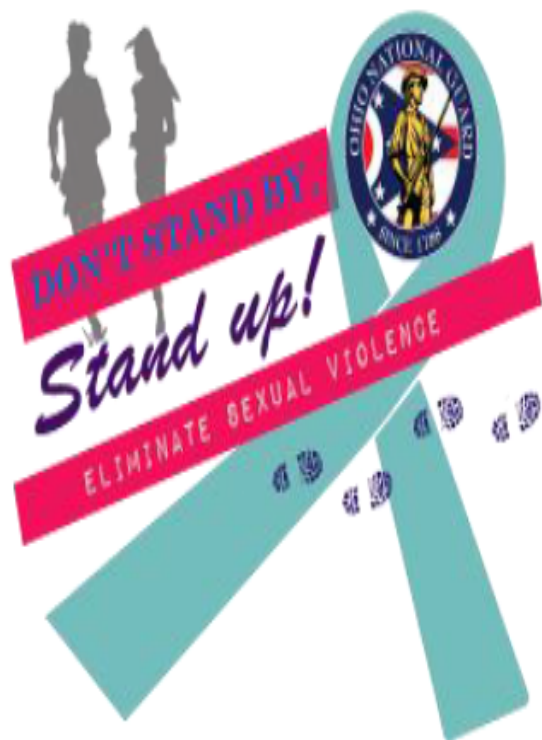
**Only \$75.00 for a family of four! Each additional member only \$10 more.**



Family Readiness & Warrior Support Program: Child, Youth & School Services - 614-336-7274  
[http://long.ohio.gov/frg/FRG\\_youthprograms.html](http://long.ohio.gov/frg/FRG_youthprograms.html)



## EPIC MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN!



2015 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Race to Eliminate Sexual Violence

9 am to 10 am

<https://premieraces.org/upcoming-events-calendar/323-race-to-eliminate-sexual-violence-2015>

2015 Inaugural ShenaniGames

10 am to 2 pm

[www.dwaveohio.org](http://www.dwaveohio.org)

Join us on **April 19, 2015** at Wolfe Park (Bexley)  
105 Park Drive, Columbus, Ohio, 43209 for these two **EPIC** events.

Register online at the links above or contact DWAVE for more information:

**DWAVE**

*Deaf World Against Violence Everywhere*

[www.dwaveohio.org](http://www.dwaveohio.org) ∞ 614.678.5476 vp ∞ 614.670.8796 v ∞ [info@dwaveohio.org](mailto:info@dwaveohio.org)