

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



OHIO NATIONAL GUARD

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Ohio National Guard officially opens Delaware Readiness Center with community partners

Story by Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

Photo by Bill Pierce, Ohio National Guard Public Affairs

DELAWARE, Ohio — The Ohio National Guard, in conjunction with the City of Delaware and the Delaware Community Center YMCA, conducted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Delaware Readiness Center April 20, 2015.

The readiness center, which is connected to the existing Delaware Community Center YMCA, will replace current facilities that are more than 50 years old. It provides the necessary administrative, training and storage areas required for its new residents to conduct unit operations and training. The combined Training and Community Center (TACC), like those recently constructed in Bowling Green, Marysville and Woodlawn, Ohio, is part of ongoing Ohio National Guard public-private partnership initiatives that share costs of developing facilities that can benefit the entire community. The cost to build the new facility is \$11.4 million; the federal share is more than \$8.5 million and the state of Ohio's share is nearly \$2.9 million.

The Delaware Community Center YMCA features multiple pools, gymnasiums, aerobic rooms, a fitness center, climbing wall and indoor running track. The new Ohio Army National Guard readiness center, which covers 64,975 square feet and sits on 17 acres of land, provides additional fitness rooms and another basketball gymnasium with an attached institutional kitchen.

The readiness center will be home to multiple Ohio Army National Guard units: all elements of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 134th Field Artillery Regiment, currently located in Columbus, Ohio; and Battery A, 1-134th Field Artillery, currently located in Marion, Ohio.



Ceremonies in April

1. Delaware Readiness Center
2. FMS #9 (Chillicothe)

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Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman (center, right), Ohio adjutant general, and U.S. Rep. Pat Tiberi are joined by other community leaders during the official ribbon cutting for the Delaware Readiness Center April 20, 2015, in Delaware, Ohio. The new facility is connected to the existing Delaware Community Center YMCA, and the combined training and community center will be utilized by Ohio National Guard Soldiers and members of the local community.

We can all do something to end Veteran homelessness

The Veteran Administration (VA) is committed to ending Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. No one who has served our country should ever go without a safe, stable place to call home.

The entire department has put its energy and resources into ending Veteran homelessness. VA's programs provide individualized, comprehensive care to Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Still, VA cannot do it alone. Organizations and individuals in communities across the country are integral to providing services to Veterans and spreading the word about the resources VA provides to end and prevent homelessness among Veterans.

Explore va.gov/homeless to learn about VA's programs for Veterans and to find out what you, your neighbors, and your community can do to help Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

Know that one phone call can be the difference in the life of a Veteran who is homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Make the Call to 877-4AID-VET (424-3838) to be connected 24/7 with VA's services to overcome or prevent homelessness for yourself or a Veteran you know.

<http://www.va.gov/homeless/>

Ohio Army National Guard earns top Army award for overall organizational excellence for fifth time

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio Army National Guard has been selected by the Department of the Army as the 2015 Army Communities of Excellence Overall Winner, Army National Guard category. The award recognizes the organization's ongoing efforts in delivering value, improving performance and sharing innovation.

The Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) award was presented April 29 during a ceremony at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va. This year, 41 of 54 U.S. state/territory National Guard commands submitted entries. This year's award marks the fifth time Ohio has won the competition, in addition to 2003-04, 2006 and 2009. Ohio also was NGB's 2002 Rookie of the Year.

Ohio's award submission packet was evaluated by a team of certified examiners who scored the submission in the seven categories of the Army Performance Improvement Criteria (APIC) — Leadership; Strategic Planning; Customer Focus; Measurement, Analysis and Knowledge Management; Workforce Focus; Operations Focus; and Results.



Read the full press release at:

<http://ong.ohio.gov/information/press-releases/2015/150501-Log09.pdf>



DID YOU KNOW?

May is Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month—a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Much like Black History and Women's History celebrations, APA Heritage Month originated in a congressional bill.

In June 1977, Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the president to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed.

On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a joint resolution designating the annual celebration.

COMING EVENTS**MAY 17****1-145th Armored Regiment
Change of Command**

Armored Training Center,
CRJMTC
1440 St. Rt. 534 SW
Newton Falls
Time: 11 a.m.
Outgoing:
Lt. Col. Perry Carper II
Incoming:
Lt. Col. Kenneth Ratliff

JUNE 6**237th Support Battalion Ball**

The Emidio & Sons
Banquet Center
48 E. Bath Road
Cuyahoga Falls
Cocktails: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
Awards Presentation: 8 p.m.

VA will now determine eligibility using driving distance

WASHINGTON — In order to expand eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced on April 25 that it will determine eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program based on the distance between a Veteran's place of residence and the nearest VA medical facility using driving distance rather than straight-line distance. This change has been published in the "Federal Register" [<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/04/24/2015-09370/driving-distance-eligibility-for-the-veterans-choice-program>] and is effective immediately.

“VA is pleased to announce the distance calculation change from straight-line to driving distance for the Veterans Choice Program,” said Secretary Robert McDonald. “This update to the program will allow more Veterans to access care when and where they want it. We look forward to continued dialogue with Veterans and our partners to help us ensure continued improvements for Veterans to access care.”

The change from straight-line to driving distance roughly doubles the number of eligible Veterans. Letters are being sent to the newly eligible Veterans to let them know they are now eligible for the Veterans Choice Program under this expansion. If a Veteran does not remember receiving a Veterans Choice Card or has other questions about the Choice Program, they can call (866) 606-8198.

Effective immediately, VA is also changing the mileage calculation for beneficiary travel. The change will ensure consistency in VA's mileage calculations across the two programs. The beneficiary travel calculation will now be made using the fastest route instead of the shortest route.

<http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2695>

Women Veterans' Voices: VA Health Care Serves Us

Dr. Patty Hayes, VA's director of women's health will moderate a panel of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom women Veterans who will discuss their experiences with VA health care on Tuesday, May 5, at 2 p.m.

Go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrcUV_yt1cl to join this group of female Veterans describe how VA is changing to better serve women.

Join the YouTube Live event to also hear more about:

- * Why these women Veterans choose VA health care
- * What VA has done to improve women Veterans' experiences
- * How women Veterans can connect with VA health care

Register now at <http://explore.va.gov/events>



Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman (center, right), Ohio adjutant general, and Chillicothe Mayor Jack Everson (center, left), conduct the official ribbon cutting for Field Maintenance Shop 9, April 27, 2015, in Chillicothe, Ohio. The new 12,000-square foot facility, which offers modern maintenance work stations, equipment systems and administrative areas, is co-located with Camp Sherman Joint Training Center and replaces aging and smaller facilities in Piketon, Ohio. (Bill Pierce, ONG)

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
1-888-276-9472**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD



Gov. John R. Kasich (left) administers the oath of office to Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman, who is sworn in as Ohio's 82nd adjutant general, March 30, 2015, in Columbus, Ohio. Bartman's wife, Christi, holds his father's bible as their daughters, Aubrey and Ashley, look on. (Photo courtesy of the Governor's Office)