



THE FOCUS



ANNUAL TRAINING NEWSLETTER OF THE OHIO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

OHIO GUARDSMEN CONDUCT TRAINING ON REAL-WORLD SCENARIOS



Ohio Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Andrew Kuhn

ANNUAL TRAINING READIES OHARNG TO FIGHT TONIGHT

STORY BY OHIO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SPC. ELIZABETH WILLIAMS

CAMP GRAYLING JOINT MANEUVER TRAINING CENTER, Mich. (June 17, 2018) – Imagine the phone rings at 10 p.m. It's a Soldier's section leader saying they have to be at the armory in 48 hours. In 72 hours the Soldier will be on a plane heading overseas.

Soldiers have to be ready to go at a moment's notice, which requires a state of constant readiness. This is the reality for National Guardsmen. The Ohio Army National Guard's (OHARNG) mission is to be prepared, trained, and always ready when called.

The largest training event to take place in the Ohio guard this year is annual training at the Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center in Grayling, Mich. The two-week training includes nearly 26 units and more than 2,700 Soldiers who have come together to be evaluated on their ability to complete job-specific missions.

Although a select few units were chosen to participate in this year's intensive annual training, those units have not received orders to deploy, said Maj. Gen. John C. Harris Jr., assistant adjutant general of the Ohio Army National Guard.

Instead, he said, the OHARNG is creating a ready force by increasing training, personnel and equipment readiness. Pushing units to be ready to fight tonight is important for members of the Ohio Army National Guard, because it increases individual and group morale as well as collective proficiency.

Preparation for the event has been long but successful, said Master Sgt. Aaron Vandeneynnden, the senior logistician for the 37th Brigade Combat Team in Columbus, Ohio, which is supporting annual training.

Planning the logistic operations for the training has been a major undertaking, he said. How-

**“THAT’S A
COME AS YOU
ARE, READY
TO GO TODAY
MISSION.”**

ever, the work he and his team have done will greatly benefit the state.

“We are really working as a whole,” he said. “We’ve never really done this before, so it’s kind of neat that we are training our own state and doing it this way.”

Units participating in the training are being evaluated on tasks that relate to their wartime mission. The evaluation process runs for several days, so units and their evaluator have a chance to show and see their true level of readiness. At the end of annual training, units will be identified as a go or no-go for readiness, based on how they perform during their evaluation period.

“Due to the scope of this operation I think the key that got

us here were the painful parts,” said Maj. Millard Rife, training officer of the Ohio Army National Guard who is also managing the training at Camp Grayling. “Working the plan and refining the plan is what got us here.”

Rife received a coin from Harris for his hard work preparing and executing the intensive training.

The training focuses on getting Soldiers out into the field and completing intense hands-on exercises.

“It really is about getting in the field, getting those mission-essential tasks that are associated with their wartime mission,” Harris said.

This annual training strengthens Soldiers’ excitement to train, Vandeneynnden said. Soldiers join the guard for a variety of reasons, but among them is because they want to perform their jobs with a sense of pride.

“I think training like this specifically allows a Soldier to do what they joined to do,” he said. “During the training in the heat, in the rain and the sweat and all this other stuff may not feel very good to the soldier, but coming out of it as a team, coming out of it as a group is really what is going to bind you as an element when you do a mobilization.”

Spc. Maiya L. LeBron, a medic of Headquarters Company, 112th Engineer Battalion out of Brook Park, Ohio, is excited for her first annual training where she will get more hands-on medical training.

“We are doing a lot more medical stuff,” she said, “and usually

during drill we are helping other people with their jobs, but now we are focusing specifically on setting up a battalion aid station, our medical training, doing mou-lage training, and sticking peo-

ple with needles.”

LeBron and Vandeneynnden agree that this surge in training has been good for morale for themselves and in their units as a whole.

Throughout the Camp Grayling training, Soldiers will have to work together in order to successfully complete the larger mission tasked to them.

Soldiers with the 1194th Engineer Company are ready to return fire for the casualty evacuation training mission June 19 at the Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center in Grayling, Mich. (Ohio Army National Guard photo by Spc. Gina Horst)



“I wanted to become a medic because I loved this medical environment,” LeBron said, “so, actually being able to practice my job makes things a lot more enjoyable.”

“You are also improving the motivation and morale of the unit, which in turn increases retention,” Vandeneynnden said.

The primary goal of the several week training is to increase units’ collective proficiency, Harris said. By the time Soldiers move back to home station they will be more confident in performing their wartime mission collectively as a unit.

“I believe the toughest and most demanding personnel readiness requirement that we have as guards-

men is our homeland mission, which will require us to fight tonight,” Harris said. “That’s a come as you are, ready to go today mission.”

This annual training gets the Ohio National Guard one step closer to being able to fight tonight.

216TH ENG BN, 237TH BSB FUEL AT MISSIONS

Story by
Pvt. Jeremiah Smith

CAMP GRAYLING, Mich. – Clouds cover the sky as raindrops pour down on Camp Grayling. Vehicles roll up to a fuel stop while soldiers of Alpha Company, 237th Brigade Support Battalion and the 216th Engineer Battalion gas them up. As the vehicles leave Fuel Alley, all that is left are Soldiers covered in raindrops and the aroma of the fuel that was just dispensed.

The vehicles leave and the job is done for now. 1st Lt. Theodore Mcculley, the distribution platoon leader of the 216th, gathers his Soldiers to give a brief before the next wave of vehicles come through for fuel. As the brief continues, Mcculley speaks softly and firmly. As he talks, he mentions what their mission is for this training event.

Annual training is essential for the Ohio Army National Guard to build and sustain mission readiness to meet combatant requirements. The mission for both the 237th and 216th are to provide support to units during annual training at Camp Grayling.

“Our mission is to make sure vehicles have fuel and support,” said Spc. Justin Noble, a petroleum supply specialist for Alpha Company, 237th BSB.

As units across the Ohio Army National Guard attend annual training at Camp Grayling, fuel plays a vital role in completing their mission.

“Every single piece of equipment we have uses fuel of some kind, or they

use generators that use fuel,” Mcculley said.

Support is important to every unit; units are unable to complete their missions if they are not supported. Soldiers must be transported, eat, and get supplies, and therefore, the mission could fail if Soldiers are hungry, dehydrated, or don’t get what they need.

“Training doesn’t happen without our support,” Mcculley said. “Whether that be the fueling distribution or the water, we make sure everyone has what’s needed. If Soldiers don’t have food, then Soldiers are too hungry to train properly or their vehicles breakdown, and they aren’t able to be transported.”

Annual training is a very important event to units that could be deployed at any time, and the near 5,000 gallons of fuel the 237th and 216th brought drives the training. Fuel isn’t just for transports, it is also used in generators which provide

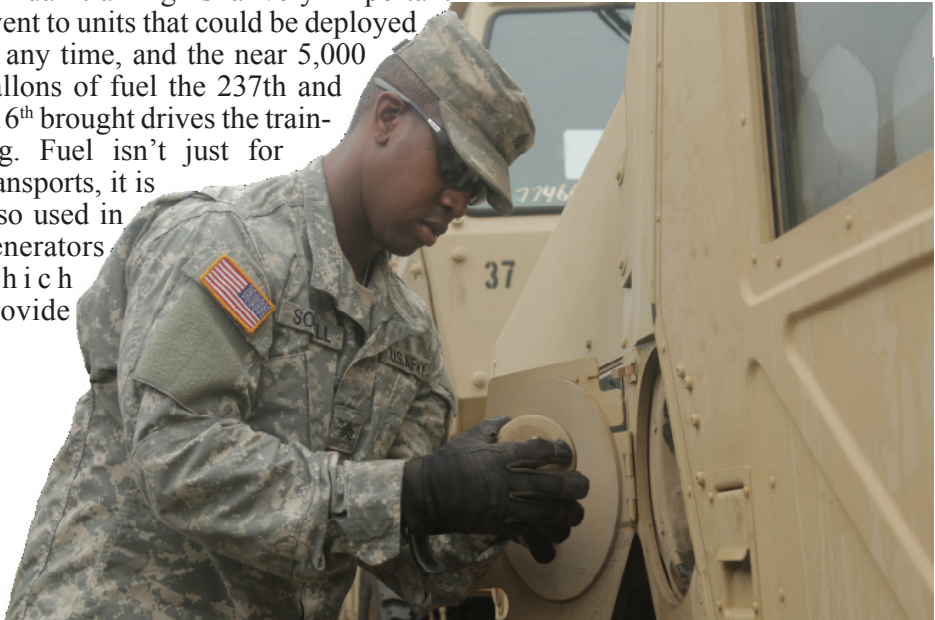
Sgt. Robert Sowell, a fueler with Alpha Company, 237th Brigade Support Battalion out of Warrensville Heights, Ohio, closes the fuel cap of an M1151 Up-Armored High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle June 18 at the Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center in Grayling, Mich. Alpha company is supporting all units from the guard who are in Camp Grayling during annual training. (Ohio Army National Guard photo by Pvt. Jeremiah Smith)



Ohio Army National Guard photo by Spc. Gina Horst electricity for Soldiers. Even being on base, missions require transportation. No one is completing their mission in a reasonable time without support units like the 237th and 216th.

“I believe we should be mission capable and mission ready one-hundred percent” said Sgt. Walter Arthur, a fueler for the 216th.

Support units play a major role in completing the OHARNG AT mission and provide help for 100 percent mission readiness.



Chaplain's Corner

Location: Bldg 314 Howe Road

Hours: 0900-2030

Worship Service: Sunday at 1930

Bible study on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 1930.

Contact the following or stop by the chapel for assistance:

Senior CH (MAJ) Dietz- 440-454-3438

CH (CPT) Locke- 37th IBCT- 614-805-7000

CH (CPT) Proehl- 216th EN- 740-876-2614

CH (1LT) Beetler- 237th EN- 216-288-4905

CH (1LT) Kirkpatrick- 148th INF- 478-390-3087

CH (CPT) Cartwright- 112th EN- 234-405-8885

Can also request field services through Battalion S1.

Camp Grayling

Did you know?

The Beginning

Camp Grayling was founded in 1913, after Rasmus Hanson, a lumber baron and philanthropist, initially donated 15,000 acres of land. The camp is now more than 147,000 acres and is the largest National Guard training center in the country.

20,000
Personnel Trained per Year

9,938
Acres of Live Fire

65,000
Acres of Heavy Maneuver Area

What happens here

1
Military Training Site

More than 20,000 troops train at Camp Grayling annually.

2
Wildlife Refuge

Rare plant and animals species inhabit the area.

3
Civilian Recreational Area

Activities include camping, hunting, fishing, canoeing and snowmobiling.

4
Community Resource

The camp has an economic impact of more than \$30 million a year on the community.



Fun Fact

2013 was Camp Grayling's 100th anniversary. To commemorate the anniversary, a time capsule was buried at Memorial Field, and is to be opened on July 20, 2113.

Acreage



OHIO ENGINEERS BUILDING SKILL SETS WITH CASUALTY EVACUATION TRAINING

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. ANDREW KUHN



CAMP GRAYLING JOINT MANEUVER TRAINING CENTER, Mich. — Unconscious, lying in the sand with a gunshot wound through the chest and a dwindling pulse. Hundreds of miles away from his hometown in Wilmington, Ohio, the life of Spc. Matthew Sell, an interior electrician with the 1194th Engineer Company depends on the cohesiveness and quick thinking of his team. With only three days of Combat Lifesaver training, Spc. Diantre Pressley, a plumber with the 1194th and Newark, Ohio native, rushes to aid his fallen comrade while the others post security, provide suppressive fire, and prepare to radio in a nine-line medical evacuation report.

Soldiers of the 1104th are evaluated to ensure they are ready and prepared to perform their individual warfighter skills, as well as cohesively function as a team during annual training June 26, at the Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center in Grayling, Mich.

“At first I was nervous,” Pressley said. “Then it just kicked in, and I started to go through the steps of what I learned and what I needed to

do.”

With time working against them, Pressley and the team peeled off Sell’s vest, exposing the wound to the midmorning sun to gain a better visual of the situation at hand. The team continued to communicate their situation to the non-commissioned officer in charge, Spc. Adam Reeder, a Wheelersburg, Ohio native, for the evacuation report, while Pressley began to execute the necessary lifesaving measures in order to take control of the spiraling situation.

“I slapped a chest seal on him, and there was an exit wound, so I put one on his back too,” Pressley said. “It’s my job to make sure he’s good until he gets to the proper medical care.”

Without his vest on and having an injured chest, the Soldiers struggled to gain a proper grip on Sell’s limp body, but used their ability to adapt and overcome to hoist him above their shoulders into the bed of their Light Medium Tactical Vehicle (LMTV).

“We just changed our technique,” Pressley said. “There are certain carries you can do without the vest, so we

had to switch to that to get there fast enough and efficiently.”

As the truck tires stirred up dust down the rugged trail to the proposed landing zone (LZ), Pressley continued to reevaluate Sell’s condition and administer care and support while Reeder radioed out the nine-line medical evacuation report from the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) just ahead.

“We wrote down the nine-line as they were taking care of our casualty, and, as soon as we were leaving for the LZ, I called it up,” Reeder said.

Hitting the entrance to the open field, the truck halted just as the tailgate dropped, pouring out the team with Sell still in critical condition. As the group pulled a 360-degree security perimeter around the LZ, others maneuvered Sell to a safe location near the wood line as they awaited the arrival of a CH-47 Chinook.

“I just made sure everybody was in the right places,” Reeder said. “First establishing our security lines, and then there were some situations where

things had changed so we had to quickly reevaluate, reassess and get everybody on the right page.”

After several anxious minutes, the bird’s chopping blades finally broke into ear shot. Spc. Ryan Reneker, a Newcomerstown, Ohio native, painted the sky from the middle of the field with his fluorescent yellow safety belt, hoping to be seen by the pilots as they erupted over the tree line.

With a roaring pass, the aircraft looped around and began its decent. The force of the rotor wash, like a tornado, suffocated the air with debris as shards of sand hit exposed skin.

“I really wasn’t sure what to expect,” Reeder said. “I think some of the new guys didn’t expect the sand to come in as quickly and as hard as it did.”

Once the dust settled, Pressley and Spc. Anthony Romeo, a Lancaster, Ohio native, collected Sell’s body and rushed toward the waiting helicopter with support from the rest of their team. The silhouette of the helicopter’s crew chief greeted them as they crossed the exposed grounds,

breaking the threshold into the back of the vessel.

“My squad relies on me to take care of them if anything would happen,” said Pressley. “My training allowed me to properly evaluate him, take care of him and take him to safety.”

For nearly 15 minutes they pushed through the skies, soaring several hundred feet over the training facilities of Camp Grayling. As the Chinook touched back down, the adrenaline-fueled soldiers flooded from the rear, and—for one last time—they held a secure position until its departure.

“When I landed my blood was rushing,” Pressley said. “It was good to go fast and really apply our training to something fast-paced like that.”

Pleased with their run, the team eagerly mounted the LMTV and returned to celebrate their success and share the news with the other two teams back at the start of the training lane.

“After running through it, I was highly pleased,” Reeder said. “The guys did an outstanding job, and I think everybody really enjoyed the whole real-life scenario aspect of it.”

The training was a two-fold opportunity that first provided the Soldiers a new situation to work together to accomplish using skills from their normal military careers, said Andrews. It also provided the junior enlisted an opportunity to step up into a leadership role and handle a realistic situation.

The life-like scenario may only ever be just that, a scenario, but the soldiers of the 1194th took the casualty evacuation training as a serious opportunity to transfer their engineering skill sets to another application that could one day save the life of a brother or sister-in-arms, if the situation should ever arise.

“I really appreciated the willingness and motivation of the younger soldiers,” said Capt. Bryan Andrews, commander of the 1194th. “We are engineers by trade, so we fix things; we push things; we build things; we tear things down...but in this scenario they elevated their rank and operated at a higher grade, and that is what I wanted to see.”



Pvt. Nathaniel Sanders, a carpenter with the 1194th Engineer Company, applies pressure to mock wounds on Spc. Adam Dickover, an interior electrician, during a casualty evacuation training June 19 at Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center in Grayling, Mich. Sanders, a South Point, Ohio native, and Dickover, a Newark, Ohio native, respond to real-life scenarios as part of the unit’s annual training requirements for the Ohio Army National Guard.



Soldiers with the 1194th Engineer Company take cover from the rotor wash of an Ohio Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook during the unit’s casualty evacuation training June 19 at the Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center in Grayling, Mich. The Soldiers respond to real-life scenarios as part of their annual training requirements for the Ohio Army National Guard.



Spc. Ryan Reneker, an interior electrician with the 1194th Engineer Company, utilizes his reflective belt to flag down an Ohio Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook in order to provide evacuation support during a casualty evacuation training June 19 at the Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center in Grayling, Mich. Reneker, a Newcomerstown, Ohio native, responds to real-life scenarios as part of the unit’s annual training requirements for the Ohio Army National Guard.

PX - TROOP STORE

BLDG 341

Hours of Operation

Mon-Sat: 1000 to 1700

Sun: 0900 to 1600

1 (989) 348-4781

PHONE

CAMP GRAYLING FITNESS CENTER

BLDG 358

Hours of Operation

24/7

1 (989) 344-6742

PHONE

CAMP GRAYLING MWR BOAT HOUSE

BLDG 241

Hours of Operation

7 days/week 1000 - 2030

Soldiers can rent canoes, rowboats, kayaks and bikes free of charge on a first come, first serve basis. CAC ID Required.

1 (989) 344-6670

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To see more about Ohio Army National Guard Soldiers conducting real-life scenarios during their annual training at Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center visit ong.ohio.gov or follow us on Facebook @TheOhioNationalGuard and @196thMPAD or on Twitter @OHNationalGuard.