

METRO

179th Airlift Wing will be cyberspace wing

Formal selection follows yearlong site assessment

Mark Caudill
Mansfield News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and Maj. Gen. John C. Harris Jr. announced that the Department of the Air Force has formally selected the 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield to become the Air National

Guard's first cyberspace wing. The selection announcement follows a yearlong assessment of the site by the Air Force and National Guard Bureau, which confirmed in August 2021 that the 179th was the preferred location for this unique, emerging national defense mission.

"The 179th is the right choice for this mission, which will bring the unit, the Ohio Air National Guard and the surrounding community into the forefront of cyberspace capabilities with a clear

stake in emerging national defense strategy," DeWine said. "Gaining the new cyberspace wing involved a comprehensive effort at the local, state and national levels to ensure the unit remained in Mansfield and relevant into the future."

New mission expected to attract top recruits

Maj. Gen. John C. Harris Jr., Ohio adjutant general, sees this new mission as

critical to attracting Ohio's best and brightest toward military service.

"The guard continues to demonstrate its ability to excel at cutting-edge missions. Our recruiting advantage increases as we allow Ohioans to serve their nation while remaining in Ohio," he said. "This cyberspace wing will produce individuals with tangible experiences and advanced training that will continue to improve the state's

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Love on arrival



Lilah Maya, 4, left, plays with her father, Andres Maya, on Wednesday while they wait to meet family at John Glenn Columbus International Airport.

Holiday travelers greeted at Columbus airport

Mike Wagner Columbus Dispatch | USA TODAY NETWORK

The beautiful bouquet of yellow carnations held by Cody Johnson was getting others in trouble at John Glenn Columbus International Airport.

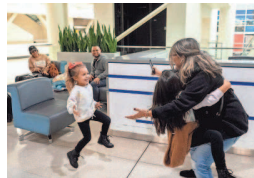
"Where are my flowers?," one woman asked her boyfriend. "Why didn't you do that for me," said another woman while she playfully hit her grinning husband in the shoulder.

Johnson was waiting patiently but anxiously near the arrival gate on Concourse B for his wife, Hannah, who was flying in from Austin, Texas.

He had driven 20 hours from Austin to Columbus earlier in the week and brought the flowers to surprise his wife of six months. The couple were going to spend the Thanksgiving weekend with Cody's family in Columbus.

Johnson wasn't in any kind of trouble. And he had only been without his wife a few days. But he just wanted to do something nice for her and yellow was her favorite color. "I'm going for the husband of the year award," he joked.

When Hannah spotted Cody walking to-



Liana Maya, 7, hugs her grandmother, Marta Pinzon, 60, while her little sister, 4-year-old Lilah Maya, runs over to meet her too at John Glenn Columbus International Airport. PHOTOS BY JOSEPH SCHELLER/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

ward her with flowers she stopped in her tracks, covered her mouth and then couldn't stop kissing her husband.

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Jim Lorimer was the co-founder of the Arnold Classic, which later became the Arnold Sports Festival. DORAL CHENOWETH III/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Arnold Classic co-founder Jim Lorimer dies at 96

Jim Welker
Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

Jim Lorimer, the colorful co-founder of the Arnold Classic, who also served as a national track coach, a mayor, a corporate executive and an FBI agent, died Thursday at age 96.

"I am devastated that I won't sit with him again and hear his wisdom, or critique bodybuilders together, or just laugh and laugh," said longtime friend and partner Arnold Schwarzenegger in an Instagram post. "Jim lives on in every member of his family, and he lives on in me. He's one reason I would never call myself self-made."

Born Oct. 7, 1926, in Bristol, Penn., Lorimer lived an eventful and active life until nearly the end. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Lorimer graduated from Ursinus College before receiving a law degree from Penn State University and embarking on a career as a special agent with the FBI.

Jim Lorimer was a lifelong sports fan and champion for women's and girls' sports

In the late 1950s, after several years in the FBI, Lorimer moved to Worthington to join Nationwide Insurance company, where he became vice president of government relations. In 1959, Lorimer, a lifelong sports fan, traveled to Philadelphia to watch an international gymnastics competition, where the Soviet Union women beat the U.S. women's team.

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Man's body found in Alum Creek; probe ongoing

Bethany Bruner
Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

For the second time in two days, Columbus police are investigating after a man's body was found Thursday afternoon in an area waterway along a public

trail.

Detectives also released information about two homicides as the city has reached 130 for 2022.

Around 12:50 p.m. Thursday, police were called to the Alum Creek Trail after it was reported that there was a body in Alum Creek off the trail. The body was

found under the Alum Creek bridge off Ohio 161 near Strawberry Farms Boulevard on the city's Northeast Side.

Police have not released any additional information, including whether the man's death is being investigated as

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Holiday

INDOOR DECORATING CONTEST

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Lakota superintendent passes psychological exam after probe

Madeline Mitchell
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

Lakota Local Schools superintendent Matt Miller passed a psychological examination and was deemed fit to continue leading one of the largest school systems in Ohio after months of controversy, school board president Lynda O'Connor announced Monday evening. Miller was vindicated for a second time earlier this month after an investigator found claims against Miller to be false.

In an effort to get back to school business and eliminate further spread of false allegations against the district leader, or any school district employees, the school board is adding restrictions to the public comment portion of its public meetings.

Further details on these restrictions are listed further down in this story. It's not clear when they will start being enforced.

O'Connor read a statement regarding Miller's examination and a recent investigation into false claims against him during Monday's meeting. The statement was approved by board members Isaac Adi, Julie Shaffer and Kelley Casper. Board member Darbi Boddy voted against the statement.

Miller was investigated by the Butler County Sheriff's Office and an independent investigator hired by the district who also completed a full forensic examination of Miller's professional and personal devices and cloud storage. Neither investigation found Miller had participated in wrongdoing. If the board had received "any credible evidence of misconduct," O'Connor said, Miller would have been placed on administrative leave immediately.

Most recently, Miller was evaluated by an independent psychiatrist to determine his fitness for duty. O'Connor said Monday that the psychiatrist determined a week prior that Miller is "unreservedly fit for duty."

"While we understand that some members of our community may disagree, the board is confident that it exercised all due diligence in this matter. These claims against Mr. Miller were found to be false by multiple agencies. These claims appear to have been a personally motivated attack and would not have been brought if he were not the superintendent," O'Connor said.

O'Connor stated the board fully supports Miller, adding that he "has been an excellent leader" and is "one of the shining lights in education, both in Ohio and nationally."

"It's now time for the board's focus to



Lakota Local Schools board of education President Lynda O'Connor says Superintendent Matt Miller passed his psychological exam and is fit for duty. ALBERT CESARE/THE ENQUIRER

return to our core work, that of educating Lakota students," O'Connor said.

Boddy, who did not support O'Connor's statement, continued to repeat false claims against Miller during Monday's meeting.

"Our community is not proud of our superintendent," Boddy said. To Miller, she said, "The fact remains that you do not have the ethics that are wanted in a superintendent of Lakota."

O'Connor asked Miller if he'd like to address those claims, which he declined at first on advice of his attorney.

But when Boddy continued to repeat the allegations later during Monday's meeting, including statements from the sheriff's investigation about "pillow talk" and sexual fantasies between Miller and his former wife, Miller interrupted.

"It's taken out of context," Miller said. He did not elaborate.

Other board members expressed support for Miller during Monday's meeting and a desire to move forward after the investigation.

"It has not been pleasant for any of us," Casper said. "I'm glad we are going to be able to get back to what we should be doing, which is educating children."

Lakota school board looks into public comment restrictions at future meetings

Several policy changes were brought to the board on Monday, including major changes to the district's public participation policy. The board did not vote on these changes Monday, but will vote to approve them at the next board meeting in December.

All board members but Boddy expressed support for the following changes:

- Attendees who wish to speak at a board meeting must register their intention to participate after the agenda is published and up to 9 a.m. on the day

of the meeting. Participants can register online on the district's website, or in person at Lakota Central Offices during regular business hours. Individuals may not register others to speak during public participation unless the person wishing to speak is not physically able to register themselves.

- Attendees cannot display posters or other objects that are distracting or obstruct others' view of the meeting. Violators could be asked to leave the board meeting.

- Public commenters can speak on items in the published agenda or a set of 14 specific topics including curriculum, facilities, finance, safety, special education, technology and transportation.

- Public commenters cannot speak about specific employees during public comment.

"I'm sorry, but it looks like you're trying to shut the community up from speaking up against Matt Miller who's trying to bully people into being quiet," Boddy said. "That's what this looks like and it's bad timing. It's a bad policy and you're not respecting the parents of our community and their voices."

Shaffer said one of the reasons for restricting comments about specific employees is due to concerns about retention.

"I want to make sure that our staff knows that we are not going to support potentially libelous or slanderous information be presented at the mic," Shaffer said.

The board spent over an hour discussing the public participation changes during last week's policy committee meeting, O'Connor said, especially after a lawsuit was filed against the district in late September by Curt Hartman on behalf of Liberty Township resident Diane Hughes.

Hartman filed a motion for a temporary restraining order against the district along with the suit, claiming O'Connor had denied Hughes and others access to participate in public comments because of their desire to speak critically of Miller. The board voted to approve a settlement with Hughes on Monday, which included \$15,000 to Hartman, and Hughes was the first speaker during Monday's public comment section.

Once the new public participation policy is voted on and approved, comments about Miller or any other Lakota employee won't be permitted. That includes positive comments, too.

The next board of education meeting will take place on Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Lakota Plains Junior School, located at 5500 Princeton Road in Liberty Township.

Creek

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a homicide.

The discovery came about 27 hours after the body of 51-year-old Robert Marsh III was found in a pond along the Camp Chase Trail at Wilson Road Park on the city's West Side.

Marsh's body was found around 10:20 a.m. Wednesday by a person walking in the area.

Police determined Marsh was killed in an altercation with 46-year-old John Ferry, who is listed in court records as living on the "streets of Columbus."

As of mid-afternoon Friday, Ferry was not yet in custody.

Police identify man found shot in South Linden yard

Columbus police on Friday identified Anthony L. Elmore, 31, of North Linden as the man who was found shot Tuesday in a South Linden yard.

Police had received a ShotSpotter alert from the 800 block of East 16th Avenue around 7:35 p.m. Tuesday and when officers responded to the scene, witnesses told them a home on the 1600 block of Cleveland Avenue had been struck by gunfire.

Elmore was found shot in the yard of a home near where the ShotSpotter alert originated. Another home appeared to have been struck by more than two dozen bullets.

Elmore was pronounced dead at the scene at 8:45 p.m., detectives said. No suspects or motives have been identified in the shooting.

According to court records, Elmore was previously charged as a member of the Short North Posse in a 2010 case that resulted in 19 members of the gang facing criminal prosecution.

Man killed in Thanksgiving Day shooting at Hilltop home

A 42-year-old man died Thursday afternoon after being shot at a Hilltop home.

The victim, whom Columbus police did not identify by name, was shot around 4:45 p.m. Thursday at a home on the 900 block of South Roy's Avenue, city homicide detectives said.

The victim died at the scene. Police have not released any information about possible suspects in the case.

The shooting was the city's 130th homicide in 2022. At this point in 2021 — the deadliest year in the city's history — there had been 178 homicides.

Anyone with information is asked to call Columbus police at 614-645-4730 or Central Ohio Crime Stoppers at 614-461-TIPS.

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Lorimer

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Lorimer left the event convinced the U.S. women lacked only training to compete against the best in the world.

"I said, 'I could find a girl right here in Worthington and show her immediately how to jump higher than that girl on the U.S. team,'" Lorimer recalled in a 2020 interview.

Fueled by that passion, Lorimer founded the Ohio Track Club Girls Team. The success of the team, which won national championships, earned Lorimer a role as secretary and chairman of the U.S. Olympic Committee for Women's Track & Field. He managed the U.S. Team in several international competitions.

"He had a real vision for women's and girls' sports," said Linda Logan, the CEO and president of the Greater Columbus Sports Commission. "He gave women and girls in Ohio the opportunity to compete at an international level. Generations of female athletes can thank him for that."

His growing involvement in sports led Lorimer to chair the World Weightlifting Championship in Columbus in 1967, followed by promoting Mr. World and Mr. Olympia bodybuilding contest in the city.

Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jim Lorimer began lifelong partnership in 1970

At the 1970 event, he invited the young Austrian bodybuilder Arnold Schwarzenegger to Columbus, igniting a lifelong partnership that resulted in the two founding the Arnold Classic — which became the Arnold Sports Festival — in 1989.

"When I met him 52 years ago at the Mr. World bodybuilding championship he organized so fantastically in Colum-



Jim Lorimer sits in the Lorimer Suite overlooking the main exhibition hall during the Arnold Fitness Expo inside the Greater Columbus Convention Center on March 2, 2018. PHOTO BY ADAM CARRIS

bus, Ohio, I immediately knew Jim would be a big part of my life," Schwarzenegger wrote. "I told him when I retired from competing, we would be partners and promote bodybuilding together. And starting in 1976, we did just that with a handshake agreement for more than 50 years, expanding from a small bodybuilding show to a sports festival with 200,000 visitors and more athletes than the Olympics."

From its simple founding as a bodybuilding contest, the event grew into the biggest weekend event in Columbus, and one that has been duplicated on five continents.

"Jim put Columbus on the map when it came to bodybuilding and other sports-related competitions," said Columbus Mayor Andrew J. Ginther. "But he did much more for the city, especially our young people."

Those who worked with Lorimer attribute his success to his nonstop passion and his ability to work across the

board. He liked to tell those working with him, "Let's always do better than our previous best," a credo he did his best to live up to.

"Jim was a phenomenal person," said Brian Ross, CEO and president of Experience Columbus. "He was very humble but he was also very thoughtful in how he kept the community in front of mind and aligned as he built the juggernaut we know as The Arnold. He grew a very elite bodybuilding competition at Veterans Memorial to a more than \$50-million event."

The event became crucial to expanding the convention and event business in Columbus, and in attracting other sports events to the city.

"The Arnold Sports Classic had a major impact on the expansion of the Greater Columbus Convention Center, and building the first Hilton hotel, and now expanding the Hilton into the 1,000-room hotel we have now," Ross said.

"That was another facet to what was really a renaissance man. There's just so many layers to him. He was a genuine person, the same person in the board room or in the leadership roles that he was in private with everyday citizens. I feel very blessed to know him."

Linda Logan, the CEO and president of the Greater Columbus Sports Commission

Despite the growth of "The Arnold," Lorimer found time to remain active elsewhere, notably in his community of Worthington. Lorimer was appointed in 1967 as Worthington's mayor, a position he held for 14 years. He also was elected to Worthington City Council in the 1980s and served as vice mayor of Worthington for several decades before retiring in 2019.

A lifelong fitness buff, Lorimer worked out regularly in his Worthington basement gym, and liked to entertain people by walking on his hands. He was also an avid Shakespeare fan and frequently attended the Stratford Festival in Ontario.

"That was another facet to what was really a renaissance man. There's just so many layers to him," Logan said. "He was a genuine person, the same person in the board room or in the leadership roles that he was in private with everyday citizens. I feel very blessed to know him."

Lorimer was preceded in death last year by Jean Lorimer, his wife of more than 50 years. He is survived by the couple's three children, Kathy Jane Nagle (Paul), James Jeffrey Lorimer (Jeanne) and Robert Craig Lorimer (Tammy), six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Services are pending at Schoedinger Worthington funeral chapel and at Worthington United Methodist Church.
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