



For Immediate Release
Nov. 12, 2014

Ohio Veterans Homes to Welcome New Superintendent

COLUMBUS – Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Tim Gorrell appointed Michael R. “Mick” Oppy of Chillicothe as the new Superintendent of the Ohio Veterans Homes. Mr. Oppy will assume his duties on November 17.

“Mick brings a tremendous amount of experience as a veteran and a leader to our organization,” Director Gorrell said. “He worked his way up through the ranks in the Army to become a First Sergeant, and he did the same in our state’s correction system. We’ve got the right person to continue the very important work of caring for our most vulnerable veterans.”

Mr. Oppy is an Army veteran who deployed to Iraq as a member of the Ohio Army National Guard. He has worked for 21 years within the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, where he is currently the Correctional Warden of the Ross Correctional Institution. He replaces Fred Stratmann, who served as Interim Superintendent for ten months. Mr. Stratmann will resume his full-time duties as Chief Counsel of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services.

“I’m extremely happy to be named the Superintendent, and I’m anxious to get started,” Mr. Oppy said. “The Ohio Veterans Homes and our dedicated employees have long served the veterans of our state with the highest quality of care in an environment where our veterans feel valued, and I look forward to continuing that tradition.”

Director Gorrell also praised Mr. Stratmann for his role at the Ohio Veterans Homes. “I also want to say a huge thank you to Fred Stratmann for his work as Interim Superintendent,” Director Gorrell continued. “He did a fantastic job, and we greatly appreciate his service.”

Mr. Oppy, 50, was born in Akron and graduated from South Webster High School in Scioto County. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Administration from the University of Rio Grande. Following his graduation from high school, Mr. Oppy enlisted in the U.S. Army and spent seven years on active duty, serving in infantry units in Germany and Fort Benning, Georgia. He enlisted in the Ohio Army National Guard in 1996, serving in both infantry and support units and rising through the non-commissioned officer ranks to become the First Sergeant of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Brigade Special Troops Battalion,

37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. He deployed in 2008 to Iraq as the company First Sergeant. Mr. Oppy is now retired from the Ohio Army National Guard after completing a total of 24 years of military service.

In 1993, Mr. Oppy began his career in the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction as a Correctional Officer at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville. He received five promotions while at the facility, eventually becoming Correctional Institution Deputy Superintendent. He has been Correctional Warden at the Ross County facility in Chillicothe since 2012.

The Ohio Veterans Homes are state-operated nursing homes for veterans of wartime service. The Ohio Veterans Home - Sandusky is a 427-bed nursing home facility, the largest nursing home in the state. Sandusky also maintains 293 independent living beds in a domiciliary setting. The Ohio Veterans Home - Georgetown offers 189 beds for nursing home care.

-30-

Media needing more information, contact - Mike McKinney at 614-728-0235 or Michael.mckinney@dvs.ohio.gov .