



GREENE COUNTY DAILIES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Local leaders to train with enlisted airmen

NIKKI FERRELL

Staff Writer

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

FAIRBORN — Council members and city officials will be issued weapons and dog tags to patrol and participate in low-light operations at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base today, according to a press release.

But don't worry – it's a simulation.

The Wright-Patterson Air Force Base has invited elected officials, city managers and other public figures to its 24-hour Operation Community Warfighter simulation.

"It sounds pretty intense," said Beaver Creek Councilman Brian Jarvis, one of the attendees. "We're going to be embedded in their troops as they go through their simulation movements. We'll be eating with them, we'll be sleeping with them – doing whatever they're doing."

Jarvis served four years in the Air Force, he said, and is excited to revisit those days.

Deborah McDonnell, Fairborn City Manager, has not served in the military, but said Thursday night that she wasn't nervous about the event.

"That's why I thought this would be a really unique, one-of-a-kind opportunity to see what the war fighters go through when they are being deployed," she said.

"I look forward to the opportunity to see what our airmen are doing," said Jarvis.

"This, to me, is very important with the base being right next door to us, and anything I can do to support their main goal as being a war fighting platform is something I want to do," Jarvis added.

The simulation begins today at 7 a.m. and participants will sleep at the training facility tonight, said base officials.

Base officials could not provide a finalized list of simulation attendees, but a release said that "more than a dozen" would attend.