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Jun 05 2015 **180th Fighter Wing Signs Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement**
Anthony Wayne



The Air National Guard 180th Fighter Wing has agreed to provide automatic mutual aid to a portion of Swanton Township served by the Whitehouse Fire Department. Pictured are (from left) 180th Fighter Wing Fire Chief Senior Master Sgt. Brian Rozick, Col. Bill Giezie, Whitehouse Fire Chief Daryl McNutt, Whitehouse Mayor Angie Kuhn, Swanton Township clerk Peggy Michael and trustee Jeff Michael.

MIRROR PHOTO BY KAREN GERHARDINGER

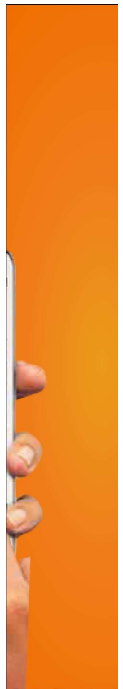
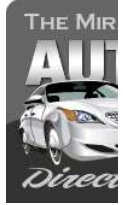
BY KAREN GERHARDINGER | MIRROR REPORTER — With a fully trained fire department and the latest in firefighting and extrication equipment, the Air National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing is regularly called upon to provide aid during area emergencies. Last week, the Whitehouse Fire Department and Swanton Township signed an automatic mutual aid agreement with the 180th Fighter Wing for a portion of the township north of Monclova Road, between Whitehouse-Spencer and Waterville-Swanton roads. "We've had a mutual aid agreement in place, so if we call, they'll come and help," said Whitehouse Fire Chief Daryl McNutt. "This makes it automatic. If there's a call, they'll respond without us calling to ask." In January 2014, Swanton Township trustees agreed to contract with Whitehouse and Spencer Township fire departments to split coverage. The area previously was serviced by the village of Swanton's fire department, said township trustee Jeff Michael. While not densely populated, the area does have a lot of horse farms and roadways with higher speeds, so barn fires and injury accidents are a concern, Michael said. Knowing that the 180th fire department is close by is reassuring, Michael said. "It's right out our back door. We'll be able to get there quickly," said

Col. Bill Giezie, mission support group commander at the 180th Fighter Wing. As the assessed risk to Air National Guard bases increased nationally after 9/11, so did the need for emergency preparedness, said the 180th Fighter Wing's fire chief, Senior Master Sgt. Brian Rozick. Currently, the 24-member department has six firefighters on duty at all times, trained to deal with structural and aircraft fires, hazardous materials, EMS and technical rescues. "They're the best trained, the best equipped and the least used in the county," McNutt said, noting that the 180th's extrication equipment, 4,000-gallon water tanker and air cart to refill tanks are invaluable, especially in dealing with rural fires and accidents. The 180th Fighter Wing and Whitehouse have had a good relationship over the years, said Rozick, who is a Whitehouse volunteer firefighter and paramedic. He was deployed to Baghdad in 2007 with McNutt's sons, John and Kevin. The 180th also relies upon Whitehouse and other area departments for support in the event of an emergency at the airport, Rozick said.

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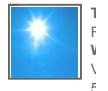
Trustees Outline Mitigation Needs For Pipeline's Compressor Station



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