



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

Major General John C. Harris Jr., Adjutant General

National Guard's 383rd birthday

The National Guard celebrates its 383rd birthday on December 13th. It was on that date in 1636 that the first militia in North America was organized in Massachusetts – in what was then a colony.

Today, the National Guard is a vital part of the Total Force. We have a combat-tested, operational force ready to deploy in support of overseas operations or when emergencies happen at home.

Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have supported exercises worldwide in the past year, and approximately 900 have deployed when called to federal duty.

The combined forces of the 54 National Guard in the states and territories logged more than 1.8 million days responding to homeland emergencies in FY19. What a testament to National Guard members' abilities to help recovery efforts, save lives, restore civil order, and protect property.

Dec. 13, 1636, serves as the starting point to our heritage of service, a symbolic founding of all the state, territory and District of Columbia militias that collectively make up today's National Guard.

I hope that each of you – Soldiers, Airmen, Families, and employers, accept my deep appreciation for protecting our deep heritage of honor and personal sacrifice.

Happy birthday to an American tradition, one that predates the founding of our great nation.

Always Ready, Always There!

Major General John C. Harris, Jr.
Ohio National Guard, The Adjutant General