



The Ohio National Guard has embarked on a new journey to meet the demands of an ever-changing world. The War on Terrorism will not subside in the near future, neither will our duty to protect the citizens of Ohio. If anything, our missions at home will expand as we work with our partners to strengthen our communities through missions such as fighting the war on drug abuse, providing clean drinking water, or helping get our neighbors back on their feet after a devastating flood or tornado.

Technology, geopolitical concerns, and the way we fight wars have changed over the past 15 years and the Ohio National Guard must change to meet these challenges. Consequently, we have examined and updated our Strategic Plan. Our strategic plan emphasizes those areas in which we must excel in order to assure the future success of our Federal, State, and Community missions. To that end, we looked strategically at the challenges of tomorrow, without being overly influenced or constrained by the problems of today, and identified a new Mission, Vision, Strategic Themes, and Priorities. At the same time, we revalidated the Ohio National Guard's values to ensure all of them align with our core being.

The new vision statement begins with five simple words — “To be the first choice!” This statement may be short on words, but it carries with it a vast amount of responsibility. The strategic plan itself will go into detail on what this statement means for you and the Ohio National Guard. However, in order for the organization to be the first choice, every individual needs to be able to reach their maximum potential.

As individuals, and collectively, we have pledged to serve our Nation, State, and local communities. Achieving our mission tasks makes us better neighbors, creates stronger communities, and supports our Strategic Objectives. Our emphasis on readiness for all three missions is reflected in our new mission statement: “Always ready, Always there!”

Mark E. Bartman
Major General
The Adjutant General