



### **U.S. Air Force celebrates 69 years of aiming high**

The U.S. Air Force celebrates its 69th year as an independent military service organization this Sunday, September 18. The Air Force's history and heritage began when the first U.S. military aircraft was purchased in 1909.

Ohio has played an important part in that history. From Eddie Rickenbacker's deeds of heroic piloting during World War I, to our Ohio National Guard Airmen who are deployed on overseas missions today, we can be proud of the Buckeye State's role in shaping today's Air Force.

I joined the Air Force when it was only 35 years old, and since then the military and the world have changed considerably. We have become One Air Force, with active duty and National Guard members working side-by-side.

As we celebrate the achievements of one branch of the military, I salute all of the dedicated men and women serving in the total force.

Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman  
Adjutant General

