



# Ohio Adjutant General's Department

TED STRICKLAND, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY L. WAYT, ADJUTANT GENERAL

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## Ohio Air National Guard unit wins award for environmental excellence

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, the Ohio adjutant general, announced today that the Ohio National Guard's 179<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing (Mansfield) has been awarded the General Thomas D. White Environmental Quality Award – Reserve Component.

This distinctive award, presented in honor of former Air Force Chief of Staff General Thomas D. White, is designed to recognize the efforts of installations for environmental quality, restoration, pollution prevention, recycling and conservation of natural and cultural resources.

The 179<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing was selected from among all 88 Air National Guard Wings, all other Air National Guard installations and all Air Force Reserve units across the county. The award covers the two-year period from October 2006 through September 2008 and is the highest honor that can be awarded to an Air Force Reserve Component unit for their commitment to environmental excellence.

"Winning this award is validation of the tremendous professionalism of the men and women of the 179<sup>th</sup> and their commitment to our environmental programs," said Col. Mark L. Stephens, 179<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing base commander. "They continue to not only achieve these goals but also set the standard for others to follow."

Noteworthy environmental advances identified in the award process included:

- Updated environmental plans that resulted in a substantial cost savings to the National Guard Bureau in excess of \$150k
- Development of a local Green Procurement process
- A significant reduction in hazardous waste generated annually by over 2,700 pounds
- Conversion to biodiesel fuel, which reduced fuel usage by approximately 3,000 gallons per year
- Reduction of consumption of deicing fluid by over 70%
- Operation of an aggressive installation-wide paper recycling program that resulted in recycling over 70,000 pounds of paper products between 2006 and 2008

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**EDITORS NOTE:** News media may contact Col. Mark L. Stephens at 419-520-6179 or Maj. Troy A. Cramer at 419-520-6323 with additional questions.

