



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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For Immediate Release

Governor-elect John Kasich names Col. (P) Deborah A. Ashenhurst 81st Adjutant General

COLUMBUS, Ohio— Governor-elect John Kasich today named Col. Promotable (P) Deborah A. Ashenhurst Ohio's new adjutant general effective Jan. 10, 2011.

"I stand ready to serve you and the citizens of Ohio with military forces trained and prepared to support our fellow Ohioans in any matter of safety and security," said Ashenhurst

As adjutant general, Ashenhurst will be responsible for the operation of the Adjutant General's Department and the military preparedness of the Ohio Army National Guard, Ohio Air National Guard, Ohio Military Reserve and Ohio Naval Militia, totaling more than 18,000 personnel.

"Being given the privilege to command at the highest level is an honor bestowed upon very few. I understand the great responsibility I am undertaking, and I look forward to serving the more than 18,000 Airmen and Soldiers of our great organization," said Ashenhurst.

Ashenhurst currently serves as commander, 73rd Troop Command, a brigade-sized unit recently designated as one of the first two Homeland Response Force units in the nation.

Col. (P) Ashenhurst will become the first female general officer for the Ohio National Guard, and Ohio's first female adjutant general. She will be the 81st Ohio adjutant general, and upon taking office will be one of only two women serving as adjutants general in the 54 states and territories.

"I stand as an example to the women in the Guard and other male dominated fields to show that they too can be a leader of both men and women; what I truly hope to show is that leadership is not gender-specific," said Ashenhurst.

Serving in the Ohio National Guard since 1978, she has held numerous staff and command positions throughout the organization. She is a graduate of the Army War College and Joint Task force Commander Training Course, and decorated with multiple awards including the Legion of Merit.