



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL MARK E. BARTMAN, ADJUTANT GENERAL

Dec. 13, 2017
Log# 17-60

For Immediate Release

Ohio National Guard highlights top accomplishments for 2017 *Support for hurricane relief efforts among deployments worldwide*

COLUMBUS, Ohio — [Hurricane relief efforts](#) were at the forefront of Ohio National Guard missions during the second half of the year.

From Hurricane Harvey to Hurricane Maria, more than 400 Ohio National Guard members were deployed between August and November to assist emergency management teams on the ground and in the air. Assistance included [communications](#), [medical aid](#), [transportation](#), shelters, [mobile kitchens](#), [water purification](#) and [imagery analysis](#).

“It’s because of the hard work and selfless service from each Citizen-Soldier and -Airman that the Ohio National Guard was able to fulfill multiple missions during a time of nearly unprecedented natural disaster relief efforts,” said [Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman](#), Ohio adjutant general. “Even though it meant spending time away from their families, jobs and college education, Ohio Guard members put the needs of others first and answered the call to help our neighbors.”

In addition to the deployments for hurricane relief efforts, more than 1,500 Airmen and Soldiers were deployed during the year in roles such as peacekeeping and humanitarian support across the globe, including Iraq, Kuwait and Africa. Ohio Guard members also participated in several international training exercises, including [Load Diffuser 17](#), a multinational, air-to-air and air-to-ground exercise with [State Partnership Program](#) partner Hungary.

Other Ohio National Guard accomplishments in the past year included:

- Through **Innovative Readiness Training** (IRT), Ohio National Guard members conducted community projects while gaining valuable military training. [GuardCare](#) provided free medical services to more than 530 people in Madison and Union counties. Soldiers of the [112th Engineer Battalion](#) provided assistance to the City of Youngstown to remove blighted homes, and Airmen of the [180th Fighter Wing](#) in Toledo worked with other military branches to support a medical clinic in North Carolina.

- An inaugural competition for the **Ohio Cyber Collaboration Committee's (OC3) Cyber Range** tested the cybersecurity skills of nearly 60 college and high school students during a daylong virtual [capture the flag event](#). [OC3](#) is a collaborative effort of more than 100 public, private, military and educational organizations led by the Ohio National Guard at the direction of Gov. John Kasich to develop a stronger cybersecurity infrastructure and provide innovative training and education to strengthen Ohio's cyber workforce.
- Members of the **ONG Counterdrug Task Force** assisted law enforcement agencies with currency seizure of more than \$12 million and additional seizures of illicit drugs, weapons and property during federal fiscal year 2017.
- In partnership with the Ohio State Highway Patrol, the Ohio National Guard engaged with more than 39,000 students as part of Gov. Kasich's "**Start Talking!**" campaign aimed at encouraging young people to make responsible decisions, live drug-free lifestyles, and purposefully encourage their peers to do the same.
- The newest addition to the Ohio Army National Guard's aviation fleet, the [UH-60M Black Hawk](#) helicopter, was unveiled. The UH-60M is the newest model in the Black Hawk family of aircraft, with a state-of-the-art cockpit display system that improves pilot control. The Ohio National Guard is scheduled to receive 20 of the new helicopters by the end of 2018.
- The **Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program** awarded Airmen and Soldiers 5,200 scholarships in academic year 2016-2017, totaling more than \$19 million. The ONGSP is a benefit earned by members who commit to a 3-6-year term of service in the Ohio Guard.
- This year marked **milestone anniversaries** for several Ohio National Guard units: the [16th Engineer Brigade](#), [371st Sustainment Brigade](#), [37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team](#), the 180th Fighter Wing's [112th Fighter Squadron](#), the [251st Cyber Engineering Installation Group](#) and [269th Combat Communications Squadron](#), and [Camp Sherman](#).
- The [Buckeye Guard](#), a venerable publication of the Adjutant General's Department from 1976 to 2011, was relaunched as a digital magazine and joined by a new video show that airs on The Ohio Channel.
- Ohio Army and Air National Guard programs brought in more than \$616 million in federal funding for operations and payroll, and state general revenue funds were \$8.54 million.

"While we can be proud of acting in a fiscally-responsible manner and successfully completing our missions in the past 12 months, there won't be time to rest on our accomplishments," Bartman said. "The new year and its accompanying challenges and opportunities require us to remain at a heightened level of readiness for the next set of missions in 2018 to support our communities, our state and our nation."

The adjutant general is a member of the governor's cabinet and is responsible for the command of the Ohio Army National Guard (the fifth-largest in the U.S. at 11,500 Soldiers), Ohio Air National Guard (the second-largest in the U.S. at 4,900 Airmen), Ohio Military Reserve and Ohio Naval Militia.

-30-

EDITOR'S NOTE: Photo archives are available at <http://ong.ohio.gov/images/PhotoGallery/photogallery.html>. High resolution photos for media use can be made available upon request.

For a complete bio and high-resolution official photo of Maj. Gen. Bartman, go to http://ong.ohio.gov/TAG_ATAG/tag_index.html.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Stephanie Beougher, public information officer, at 614-336-7369 or stephanie.k.beougher.nfg@mail.mil.

For current information and stories on the Ohio National Guard visit—

The Buckeye Guard digital magazine and newscast: <http://ong.ohio.gov/BuckeyeGuard.html>

<http://ong.ohio.gov>

<http://www.facebook.com/TheOhioNationalGuard>

<http://twitter.com/OHNationalGuard>

<http://www.flickr.com/ohionationalguard>

<http://www.youtube.com/OhioNationalGuard>

<https://www.instagram.com/ohionationalguard>