



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

Major General John C. Harris Jr., Adjutant General

U.S. Army celebrates 244 years of selfless service to our nation

Today is the birth date of the United States Army.

On June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress established an Army to defend the colonies during the American Revolution. Each colony formed militia companies of part-time Citizen-Soldiers — including farmers, business owners and tradesmen — who took up arms to fight for freedom.

I am proud to say the Citizen-Soldier legacy of the Continental Army of 244 years lives on in the Ohio Army National Guard.

Last week, the 75th anniversary of D-Day was commemorated. On June 6, 1944, more than 50,000 American Soldiers landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, and another 13,000 were air dropped in gliders or parachutes.

Two Ohio National Guard units, the 112th Combat Engineer Battalion and 987th Field Artillery Battalion, were involved in the historic invasion that led to an Allied victory and the end of World War II. The Soldiers faced an entrenched and combat-hardened enemy. Their stories are powerful reminders of those who sacrificed everything for something greater than themselves.

From the Revolution and WWII to the present day, Soldiers have honored the call to service. Standing with our active duty brothers and sisters, we stand ready today to deploy, fight and win our nation's wars.

Happy birthday, U.S. Army!

Major General John C. Harris, Jr.
Ohio National Guard, The Adjutant General