



# Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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Major General John C. Harris Jr., Adjutant General

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## Ohio National Guard's 231st birthday

July 25 is an important day in our organization's history. It was on that date in 1788 the Northwest Territory Militia was organized, which would later become known as the Ohio National Guard.

For 231 years, the Ohio National Guard has been there for Ohioans and the nation during times of trouble.

In 2019 we commemorate the 75th anniversary of two important events in the history of the Ohio National Guard, both during World War II. In March 1944, on the Pacific island of Bougainville, the 37th Infantry Division stopped cold a Japanese attack near Hill 700. In June of that year, more than 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of beaches at Normandy, France. Two Ohio National Guard units, the 112th Combat Engineer Battalion and 987th Field Artillery Battalion, were involved in the D-Day invasion.

One of those brave Ohioans who saw action during World War II was Col. Cyril Sedlacko. Cy, as he was simply known, jumped into Germany with the 17th Airborne Division in 1945. After the war, he returned to his hometown of Youngstown and joined the Ohio National Guard. He rose through the ranks and retired in 1979 as the state recruiting and retention officer. However his service didn't end there. Cy was most known for his 17 years with the 37th Division Veterans Association that culminated with the association's 100th anniversary reunion last August. His tireless efforts with the association helped to expand membership. He attended countless call to duty and welcome home ceremonies for units in the 37th IBCT. He was known for always having a smile and helping veterans and families with everything from awards, to veterans' benefits, to burial details. His continued service in and out of uniform was inspiring. Sadly, we said goodbye to Cy on July 10. He was 95 years old.

Throughout our history, there are have been many Soldiers and Airmen who have served with distinction. As with Cy's example, service doesn't end when we hang up our uniform.

That level of commitment will propel us to success in the next 231 years of service to our communities, state and nation.

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