



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

Mike DeWine, Governor

Major General John C. Harris Jr., Adjutant General

Celebrating the National Guard's 385th birthday

This is a special day in the history of the National Guard.

The Massachusetts Bay Colony militia was organized Dec. 13, 1636, marking the beginning of the organized militia and what would become the National Guard. That makes the National Guard the oldest component of the United States armed forces and one of the oldest military organizations in the world.

That is certainly something to celebrate. It is also an opportunity to celebrate the Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen who have served proudly and distinctively throughout our 385-year history. Today, we have the most capable, ready and interoperable force in our existence, prepared to serve our communities, state and nation — whenever, wherever and however we are needed.

The National Guard Bureau has produced a video to highlight the many missions Guard members have undertaken in the last year. I encourage you to take a minute to watch it at <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/822090/happy-385th-birthday-national-guard>.

It reminds me again of why I am so honored to serve alongside all of you.

Happy birthday, National Guard!

John C. Harris Jr.
Major General
The Adjutant General