



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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MAJOR GENERAL MARK E. BARTMAN, ADJUTANT GENERAL

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Answering the call since 1636

The National Guard celebrates its 380th birthday on Tuesday, Dec. 13. It was on this date in 1636 when the first militia regiments in North America were organized in Massachusetts to bolster defense of the colony.

The date is symbolic of the founding of all the state, territory, and District of Columbia militias that collectively make up today's National Guard – and makes the Guard the oldest component of the U.S. Armed Forces, and one of the oldest military organizations in the world.

For today's Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen, this birthdate is an opportunity to honor the rich heritage of the National Guard which has been a significant contributor to nearly all of our country's major military conflicts and is a key element of our homeland defense today. It is also a time for each of you to reflect and be proud to be part of that heritage, as well as be recognized for the vital role you play in serving your communities, your state and your nation.

While much has changed since our beginnings during the 17th Century, the National Guard remains a proven and trusted force that is "Always ready. Always there."

Major General Mark E. Bartman,
Ohio National Guard, The Adjutant General