



# Ohio Adjutant General's Department

BOB TAFT, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY L. WAYT, ADJUTANT GENERAL

## News Release

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### Ohio Air National Guard Strength Numbers Continue to Rise

Columbus, Ohio - Despite facing obstacles resulting from the Base Realignment and Closure process, the Ohio Air National Guard, like its Army counterpart, is experiencing a growth in end strength. This week, for the first time in a decade, the Ohio Air National Guard topped 5,050 Airmen. The figure, which represents nearly 105 percent of its authorized strength, places the Ohio Air National Guard at number three of 54 state and territory Air National Guards behind only Guam (with an authorized strength of 278) and Wisconsin (authorized 2,101).

"Keeping our strength numbers up will allow us to broker that strength into future missions while enhancing our overall strength. It also allows us to take on those future missions with great success," said Air Force Col. Robert Baylor, the Ohio National Guard assistant chief of staff.

Ohio's continued success is even more impressive because of the loss of missions through the Base Realignment and Closure process.

"We fought through the BRAC and saved all of our Wings," said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, the Ohio Adjutant General. "We were the hardest hit of any state and we've got potential new missions at both the Mansfield and Springfield bases."

The uncertainty regarding whether and what types of missions will be located at Springfield and Mansfield have created additional challenges for recruiting and retention at those units, but to their credit, both units continue to grow with Mansfield's 179<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at more than 106 percent and Springfield's 178<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing at nearly 105 percent strength.

"It's a testament to both the missions and our Airmen," Baylor said. "People are still interested in those wings. It's also a testament to the leadership, who did not let BRAC become a distraction."

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: The Ohio National Guard Public Affairs Office at 614-336-7000 or James Sims at 614-336-7126. Please visit our public**

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