



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL MARK E. BARTMAN, ADJUTANT GENERAL

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Guard members' dedicated service highlight term as Ohio adjutant general

**By Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman
Ohio Adjutant General**

I have had the honor to work with the men and women of the Ohio National Guard over the last four years as the adjutant general of Ohio.

As I near the end of my term, I reflect on the many accomplishments of this great organization in service to our fellow citizens at home and abroad.

At home, we answered the call for help when rising waters threatened residents along the Ohio River and after devastating hurricanes in Texas, Florida, North Carolina, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

With innovative readiness training, we continued the two decades-long partnership with local and state health departments through GuardCare to provide no-cost healthcare to medically underserved residents, Soldiers helped remove blighted homes, and Airmen built a community playground.

Our Counterdrug Task Force team supported the fight against illicit drugs, and educated youth on making healthy life choices. The team developed a model approach of intelligence-led policing. They coordinated with local law enforcement, prosecutors and multiple federal agencies to identify over 100 heroin dealers, which has led to dozens of arrests, many significant leads and several significant sentences in overdose death cases, carrying more than 20 years of prison time in many cases. They provided technical support (criminal analysis) to 45 law enforcement agencies and civil operations support to three community-based organizations. In total, they assisted agencies in seizing over \$105 million in illicit drugs, assets, currency and the arrest of 387 individuals.

As the combat reserve for the U.S. Army and Air Force, we deployed to locations such as Estonia, Afghanistan, Djibouti, Kuwait, Guam and even Antarctica.

We strengthened partnerships in Ohio and around the globe.

Our State Partnership Program celebrated the 10th anniversary of its pairing with the Republic of Serbia in 2016 and 25th anniversary with Hungary in 2018. During Fiscal Year 2018 the ONG participated in over 60 exchanges with Hungary and Serbia. In fact, we made history with the first-ever medical engagement between the U.S., Serbia and the Republic of Angola.

We brought together the Ohio Cyber Collaboration Committee, a new collaboration among government, academia, and public and private business partners to enhance the state's cybersecurity and to develop training programs. Among its initiatives is the first statewide cyber range in Ohio, a virtual training "sandbox" available for use by schools, governments and businesses to gain proficiency and test critical cybersecurity competencies.

We converted to new airframes at two Air National Guard wings, and the newest model of the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter joined our fleet of world-class Army aircraft.

We cut ribbons on a new refueling flight simulator, a renovated auditorium at Camp Perry Joint Training Center, and a new training range at what is now known as Camp James A. Garfield Joint Military Training Center. And we celebrated achievements such as the Army Communities of Excellence award and Air Force Outstanding Units Awards.

For the first time, women took command of an Ohio Army National Guard brigade and an Ohio Air National Guard wing, and the Ohio Air National Guard promoted its first female brigadier general.

Behind each of these accomplishments and the hundreds of others not mentioned here, are the women and men whose hard work and dedicated service fulfilled each and every mission. Ohio's Citizen-Soldiers and -Airmen truly exemplify the National Guard motto of "Always Ready, Always There." Their commitment has made this time the highlight of my 36-year military career.

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EDITOR'S NOTES: Maj. Gen. Mark E. Bartman has served as the Ohio adjutant general since January 2015 and his term will end on Jan. 13, 2019. He is a member of the governor's cabinet and is responsible for the command of the Ohio National Guard and the military readiness of the Ohio Militia. The Ohio National Guard consists of the Ohio Army National Guard, Ohio Air National Guard, Ohio Military Reserve and Ohio Naval Militia, totaling more than 16,000 personnel.

For a complete bio and high-resolution official photo of Maj. Gen. Bartman, visit http://ong.ohio.gov/TAG_ATAG/tag_index.html.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Stephanie Beougher, public information officer, at 614-336-7369 or stephanie.k.beougher.nfg@mail.mil.

For current information and stories on the Ohio National Guard:

The Buckeye Guard digital magazine and newscast—
<http://ong.ohio.gov/BuckeyeGuard.html>

<http://ong.ohio.gov>

<http://www.facebook.com/TheOhioNationalGuard>

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