

# 1st Sgt. Benjamin Wenger

Battery C, 1-174th Air Defense Artillery Regiment ~ Marysville



First Sgt. Benjamin Wenger joined the Ohio National Guard in August 2000, after leaving the active-duty Army. “I wanted to continue to serve and earn benefits for college and retirement,” Wenger said. Five years later, he found himself in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, trying to aid in the recovery efforts. “Returning a sense of order and calm to the city of New Orleans was very rewarding,” Wenger said. “Many of the local population were very appreciative to see the National Guard in their community protecting property and supporting local law enforcement in restoring civil order.”

First Sgt. Benjamin Wenger (right, as a corporal) in New Orleans, in 2005, assisted in the recovery following Hurricane Katrina, which killed 1,200 and caused \$108 billion in damage to the Gulf Coast.

## Ohioans serving Ohioans

Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are members of your community. They are local students, teachers, law enforcement, retail workers, business owners, your co-workers, family, friends and neighbors. When the Ohio National Guard responds to an emergency or natural disaster, it's Ohioans serving Ohioans right in their own communities. In this series, meet some of the front-line heroes serving during the current COVID-19 relief efforts, as well as a few of our members who've supported past humanitarian missions.