



# Ohio Adjutant General's Department

BOB TAFT, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY L. WAYT, ADJUTANT GENERAL

## **News Release**

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### **Ohio Army National Guard Sets 12-year Strength Mark**

COLUMBUS, Ohio - The Ohio Army National Guard (OHARNG) this week exceeded 10,800 Soldiers for the first time since 1994. End strength—the number of personnel in service—is one of the most critical factors in organizational readiness, that is, the ability of the National Guard successfully to perform its assigned missions.

End strength is the product of recruiting and retention, and for the past year the Ohio Army National Guard has been putting more people in uniform than have been leaving. The Ohio National Guard has enjoyed great success in recruiting, having met our 2006 goal in the first six months of the year, as Soldier retention remains high. “As a result of these successes, Ohio is well-positioned to continue to support the Global War on Terror, and to protect Ohioans from any potential natural or human-made disaster,” said Brig. Gen. Matthew Kambic, assistant adjutant general for Army.

Last spring, after the OHARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion met the National Guard Bureau-directed yearly strength goal of 10,525 in March, Maj. Gen. Gregory Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, and Brig. Gen. Matthew Kambic, assistant adjutant general for Army, committed to National Guard Bureau (NGB) that Ohio would fill 10,800 soldier slots by Sept. 30. The last Soldier needed to meet that requirement enlisted on Aug. 31, and Ohio’s new end strength was validated Sept. 6.

“I cannot express the level of admiration and gratitude I feel toward the men and women of the Recruiting Command,” Kambic said. “Month after month, every recruiter, team leader, retention NCO, staff member, has contributed in their own way to make this a wildly successful year for Ohio.”

“For August, NGB ranked Ohio number two in the Director’s State Readiness Overview,” said Lt. Col. Jerry Rees, commander of the recruiting and retention command. “Among large states, it’s been ranked number one every month this year.” All 54 states and territories are evaluated monthly on 20 criteria such as active drill status, enlisted strength, officer strength and reenlistments.

While enlistment bonuses of up to \$20,000 and education benefits that can cover 100 percent of college tuition costs are considered significant incentives to enlist in the Ohio National Guard, Kambic believes that patriotism is also a contributing factor to Ohio’s success.

“The idea of service to country seems to be a recurring theme for many of the young people enlisting today,” he said. “I think this says a lot about the character of Soldiers who currently belong to the Ohio Army National Guard.”

As for OHARNG recruiters shifting to low gear for the remainder of September, the general insists this won’t happen.

“Our recruiters will continue to push for further enlistments – not for more records or accolades – but for readiness,” Kambic said. “Their efforts at the close of this fiscal year will set the conditions for success and shape the quality of our force in the future. For me, there is nothing more important.”

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***FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: The Ohio National Guard Public Affairs Office at 614-336-7000 or Diane Farrow at 614-336-7002. Please visit our public website for more information about the Ohio National Guard at [www.ohionationalguard.com](http://www.ohionationalguard.com)***

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