



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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News Release
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Ohio Army Guard recruitment exceeds first quarter goals

Columbus – The Ohio Army National Guard continued recruiting in record numbers to start 2006, exceeding Fiscal Year 2005 year-to-date numbers by more than 200 as of Jan. 31.

The Ohio Army National Guard exceeded recruiting goals in 10 of the last 11 months, with record months in September, November and December of 2005. “We’ve heard rumblings that the National Guard is having recruiting difficulties,” said Brig. Gen. Matthew L. Kambic, Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army. “Not this National Guard.”

As the state with the seventh largest Army National Guard, Ohio is at a current strength of approximately 10,400 and ranks fifth in the nation in recruiting. “The Ohio Army National Guard is over 100 percent of its authorized strength,” Kambic added. “People are signing up in record numbers.”

This reflects a national trend in Army National Guard recruiting. According to National Guard Bureau reports, the Army National Guard had its most successful three months of recruiting and retention since 1993 in the first quarter of the 2006 Fiscal Year. Ohio has been on a recruiting fast track since last summer.

“We’ve been able to sustain a tremendous amount of momentum going into 2006,” according to Kambic. “In FY 2005 we recruited over 1,500 Soldiers. In 2006, we’re nearly half way there.”

Since Oct. 1, 2005, the Ohio Army Guard has recruited more than 660 new Soldiers. With enlistment bonuses of \$20,000 for a six-year enlistment and the Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program, which pays 100 percent of tuition at a state university, the positive recruiting trend is expected to continue.

“We usually begin to hit our stride in the spring, and we’re right on schedule with over 200 more new recruits compared to this time last year,” added Lt. Col. Jerry Rees, recruiting and retention commander for the Ohio Army National Guard.

With a major transformation taking place in the Ohio Army National Guard and with about 600 Soldiers currently deployed in the Global War on Terrorism, the Guard is poised to offer new and exciting opportunities to potential enlistees.

“With a six-year commitment, a new Guard member can get an enlistment bonus for up to \$20,000, a scholarship to pay for their undergraduate degree, earn a steady monthly paycheck, and have the Guard pay for a master’s degree,” says Kambic. “That is a good life plan for a young person getting ready for a career in today’s job market.”

The Ohio National Guard consists of approximately 15,000 Army and Air National Guard personnel capable of responding to homeland, domestic, and national emergencies. “Ohio is the only large state Army National Guard exceeding 100 percent of its authorized strength,” Kambic said. “Let there be no doubt, we are fulfilling our obligations to our communities, our state and our nation to respond with ready units.”

HUMAN INTEREST ANGLES

Columbus: Female identical twins from Fairfield County will be swearing in to the Ohio Army National Guard in Columbus on Wednesday Feb. 22.

Dayton: Dayton Recruiter Sgt. Sonny Hernandez enlisted 25 recruits between Oct. 1, 2005, and Jan. 31, 2006, exceeding his assigned mission of 23 for the entire year.

Cleveland:

- 1) Sgt. 1st Class Vincent “Jerry” Coleman was named Ohio Army National Guard top recruiter for 2005 by enlisting 40 Soldiers and achieving 143 percent of his assigned mission for the year. As “Chief’s 54 Winner,” Coleman was recognized by National Guard Bureau Chief Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum in January in Washington, D.C.
- 2) A Guard member from Brook Park recently enlisted four soldiers, potentially earning \$8,000 through the new Guard-Recruiting Assistance Program.

Warren/Youngstown: A father and son from Mineral Springs recently enlisted in the National Guard, both joining the 838th Military Police Company in Austintown.

St. Mary’s/Lima: A Guard member from St. Mary’s recently enlisted four soldiers, potentially earning \$8,000 through the new Guard-Recruiting Assistance Program.

Statewide:

1) The Ohio Army National Guard recently revamped its Recruit Sustainment Program, which increases Soldiers’ success rate at basic training and advanced individual training, and units receive fully trained Soldiers.

2) The Ohio Army National Guard recently announced the State’s “Noncommissioned Officer of the Year” and “Soldier of the Year” for 2005. Considered the highest caliber of Ohio’s enlisted ranks, Specialist Clinton R. Sheets is assigned to Co. A, 216th Engineers, in Chillicothe and Sergeant 1st Class John C. McKee works for the Recruiting and Retention Command in the Youngstown area.