



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL MARK E. BARTMAN, ADJUTANT GENERAL

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Thanksgiving Day is the time of year to pause and reflect in a spirit of gratitude.

In the life of the Ohio National Guard, there's much to be grateful for this year.

Still fresh in our memories is the devastation left behind after three major hurricanes hit the southern United States and territories. There are many stories of residents expressing their thanks for the selfless service provided by Ohio and more than 30 other states' National Guard – such as the combat medic from the 285th Medical Company (Area Support) getting hugs and thanks from the sister of a hospice patient because of the care he received in his final days, and the Airman from the 200th RED HORSE Squadron who had people stop on the side of the road to say thanks and have their pictures taken with him.

There are currently more than 1,000 of our Soldiers and Airmen deployed to locations around the world. We're grateful for the sacrifice they are making to be away from their Families in order to successfully execute important missions to protect the homeland. A special debt of gratitude is owed to their Families, too, as they will be without their loved one at the Thanksgiving Day dinner table.

Our ability to be ready to respond at all times stems from the training we receive. The effort every member has made this year during annual training and drill weekends, has ensured we have units at the highest level of readiness. Additionally, utilizing Innovative Readiness Training, Army and Air units assisted communities with free healthcare, blighted home removal, handicapped accessible nature areas and yard waste recycling. In return, Guard members gained valuable real-world training.

Each of us plays a vital role in our ability to fulfill these and other community, state and federal missions. Thank you for your continued commitment to striving for excellence as a Citizen-Soldier, -Airman or civilian employee in the Ohio National Guard Family.

As we reflect on what we should be thankful for this year, please ensure your employers also know that we truly appreciate their sacrifice in allowing you to maintain critical military skills. We are especially grateful to our student Soldiers and Airmen for your selflessness in taking time away from your education to support the missions of the Ohio National Guard.

On behalf of the Joint Force Headquarters leadership, blessings to you and your Family for a Happy Thanksgiving. Always ready, Always there!

Major General Mark E. Bartman,
Ohio National Guard, The Adjutant General