



# Ohio Adjutant General's Department

Major General John C. Harris Jr., Adjutant General

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## **Celebrating Independence Day**

Our country will celebrate its 244th birthday this Saturday and commemorate July 4, 1776, when a group of patriots united to separate from Great Britain and declare their independence. The actions they took that day led to the creation of a new nation.

The traditional Fourth of July celebrations will likely look a lot different this year than in the past. We continue to live with the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, and there still are ongoing protests across the country as citizens exercise their First Amendment rights. I believe these events will continue to test our resolve as Americans. However, if we stand united, like those patriots did in 1776, we will come out stronger.

This holiday weekend, we have Soldiers and Airmen who are on missions across the globe and here at home. Whether it's delivering food to fellow Ohioans or defending our freedom overseas, I'm proud of the dedicated service of our Ohio National Guard members.

Please stay safe. Remember to continue to safeguard your health and the health of your loved ones by practicing social distancing, washing your hands frequently and wearing personal protective equipment such as a face mask. If you host or attend any gatherings this weekend, consider the size of the get-together, as well as remember to be safe and smart if using fireworks or consuming alcoholic beverages. You and your family members are an important part of our Ohio National Guard Family.

God bless you, your family  
and the United States of America!

Major General John C. Harris, Jr.  
Ohio National Guard  
The Adjutant General