



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

Mike DeWine, Governor

Major General John C. Harris Jr., Adjutant General

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Ohio Army National Guard cuts ribbon on new Vandalia recruiting office

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio Army National Guard held a ribbon-cutting ceremony today, July 28, 2020, at its new recruiting office at 1 E. National Road, Suite 200 in Vandalia, Ohio.

[Col. Daniel Shank](#), Ohio assistant adjutant general for Army, presided over the ceremony with a small group of officials in attendance, including Vandalia Mayor Richard Herbst.

“Storefronts are essential to allow us to get our story out to the community and engage those who want to serve. Committing to the National Guard is a life-altering decision,” Shank said. “The organization is rich with opportunity and benefits, but it does take commitment. Building the trust with someone to make that commitment is difficult without looking them in the eye and really connecting with them. These storefronts allow us that opportunity.”

This is the first time the Ohio Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion has had a permanent storefront in Vandalia. Sgt. 1st. Class Justin Ward and Sgt. John Keller have been assigned to the location as the recruiting noncommissioned officers, and their team leader is Sgt. 1st Class Paul Browder, a graduate of Vandalia's Butler High School. Ward coaches football at Morton Middle School and has two daughters who attend Vandalia-Butler City Schools.

“The Army National Guard has given me so many opportunities in my adult life and it is an honor that I get to represent this organization in the community where I live,” Ward said. “I look forward to impacting lives and allowing families to start a legacy through service to country and, most importantly, to community.”

Because of COVID-19, the Vandalia recruiting office is currently open by appointment only, which can be scheduled by calling Ward at 937-232-6441.

There is a rich history of Ohio National Guard service in Montgomery County, where many units have been stationed throughout the decades since the War of 1812. Currently, the Maj. Gen. Leo M. Kreber Armory in Kettering is home to the 155th Chemical Battalion, 637th Chemical Company, and 173rd Chemical Detachment.

The Ohio National Guard, which turned 232 years old on July 25, includes more than 11,000 members of the Ohio Army National Guard who serve their communities, state, and nation during times of natural and man-made emergencies.

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EDITOR'S NOTES: A photo from today's ribbon-cutting is available at <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/6289088/ohio-army-national-guard-cuts-ribbon-new-vandalia-recruiting-office>.

Video from the event is available on the Ohio Army National Guard Recruiting Facebook page at www.facebook.com/OHarmyguardrecruiting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Stephanie Beougher, public information officer, at (614) 506-3490 or stephanie.k.beougher.nfg@mail.mil.

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