



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

Mike DeWine, Governor

Major General John C. Harris Jr., Adjutant General

April 10, 2020
Log# 20-07

For Immediate Release

More Ohio National Guard members assigned to food bank mission

Additional Northwest Ohio food bank location added to sites supported

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio National Guard members today began assisting an additional food bank location. A group of 10 Soldiers and Airmen have reported for work at the SeaGate Food Bank in Toledo.

“Food banks have seen a spike in demand for their services in recent weeks. At the same time, their available volunteer force has dwindled,” said Gov. Mike DeWine. “The Ohio National Guard has stepped in to provide the workforce and serve their fellow Ohioans.”

The additional Guard members join the approximately 500 Ohio National Guard and Ohio Military Reserve members on duty who've been performing a variety of specialized missions across the state but primarily have been supporting 12 regional food bank warehouses throughout Ohio for the past three weeks.

“Our men and women have been helping to package and deliver food so that Ohioans who need it most will have food on their table,” said Maj. Gen. John C. Harris Jr., Ohio adjutant general. “Since March 23, more than 5 million pounds of food has been packaged and more than 4 million pounds of food has been distributed.”

The Ohio National Guard is also collaborating with regional partners to identify and develop alternate care sites to expand medical capacity, assisting in collecting personal protective equipment, and supporting the medical staff at Federal Correctional Institution, Elkton in Columbiana County.

“From the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak in Ohio, we've known our support could be requested for a variety of unique missions,” added Harris. “When our state calls, we answer.”

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

See more about the Ohio National Guard's role during the COVID-19 response:
<https://ong.ohio.gov/stories/covid19/index.html>

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