

The Adjutant General's Department

Testimony of Major General Mark Bartman, Adjutant General for Ohio

Finance Subcommittee on Transportation

March 1, 2017

Chairman McColley, Ranking Member Reece and members of the Ohio House Finance Subcommittee on Transportation, I am Major General Mark Bartman, and I have the distinct honor of presenting to you on behalf of the more than 16,000 Soldiers, Airmen and civilians who are your Ohio National Guard.

My testimony today includes comments supporting the budget submission before you, some comments on the accomplishments of the past year, and a brief look ahead.

Budget

The budget before you will enable us to continue to meet our state and federal missions. Taking a fiscally-conservative approach, we will be able to recruit and retain Soldiers and Airmen, and to maintain the facilities that support the critical needs of a modern National Guard. Additionally, the state operating budget is a necessary complement to federal grants for the operations of the Ohio Army National Guard and the Ohio Air National Guard.

Our proposed General Revenue Fund (GRF) appropriation is \$8.8 million per fiscal year, which is at a zero growth level from fiscal year 2017, and will permit us to operate a sufficient maintenance program at facilities encompassing more than 25,000 acres in 37 Ohio counties. The GRF supports our core functions of administration, management and command-control. Primarily, \$3.7 million goes to directly support the Ohio Army National Guard, \$1.8 million to support the Ohio Air National Guard, and \$2.8 million for central support of both the Army and Air National Guard.

The GRF funding is essential in order to match federal cooperative agreement funding in the amount of \$42.3 million to support personnel, utilities, and maintenance. In addition to state appropriations made to the department in this budget, including those supported by federal cooperative agreement funding, we also receive another \$628 million in direct federal funding.

Commitment of federal dollars is based on the ability of the state to meet its share of the collaborative obligations. If our state funding was not available, we would lose financial support at the rate of three federal dollars for each state dollar. The GRF funding is also important as the federal government determines how many troops to place in a state based in part on the willingness of the state to meet its obligations in support of the National Guard.

The budget also maintains insurance benefits for Ohio's Soldiers and Airmen, and there are line items for dedicated purpose funds that are primarily self-sufficient and self-sustaining activities, including lodging programs at the Camp Perry Joint Training Center. These funds are a necessary part of our total budget.

We like to say that the Ohio National Guard pays for itself. An estimated \$10 million dollars in state payroll taxes are generated each year by Ohio National Guard employment.

With a solid funding base from the State, the dedicated men and women of your National Guard have successfully supported our communities, and completed missions in Ohio and around the world in the past year. I would like to call your attention to just a few of their recent accomplishments.

Accomplishments

In conjunction with the Ohio Department of Public Safety, the Ohio National Guard talked to more than 39,000 students about the dangers of drug abuse as part of the governor's Start Talking! program.

Members of the Ohio National Guard Counterdrug Task Force assisted local law enforcement agencies with the seizure of more than \$7 million in illicit drugs, weapons, property and currency during federal fiscal year 2016.

Through the GuardCare program, the Ohio National Guard partnered with local and state health departments to provide free health screenings, basic lab work and immunizations to medically underserved residents in Noble County. In the more than two decades since the program began, GuardCare has provided services for more than 13,000 Ohioans in 18 counties.

More than 600 Ohio National Guard Airmen and Soldiers were deployed throughout the year to locations such as Afghanistan, Kuwait, Turkey and Guam. In addition to scheduled deployments, Ohio National Guard members provided emergency assistance. An Ohio Air National Guard aircrew was among the first to provide relief to Haiti after Hurricane Matthew hit, and one of our Air Guard bases provided a safe haven for U.S. Air Force fighter jets as that same storm moved up the Atlantic coast. When our neighbors in West Virginia experienced flooding, the Ohio Army National Guard provided two medical evacuation helicopters through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact process.

The Ohio National Guard State Partnership Program (SPP) celebrated the 10th anniversary of its pairing with the Republic of Serbia. There were 25 events with SPP partners Serbia and Hungary during the year, including a combined medical engagement in Serbia that included personnel from Ohio and Angola.

Throughout the year, we have remained at a high state of readiness to support local law enforcement in response to natural or man-made disasters. One such example was the support our Soldiers and Airmen provided to law enforcement during the Republican National Convention in Cleveland.

As we prepare for the next year, we look to new missions, new technologies and innovative approaches to create a stronger, better Ohio.

Cyber Range

At the request of Gov. Kasich, the Ohio National Guard has brought together more than 30 public, private, military, and educational organizations to form the Ohio Cyber Collaboration Committee (OC3). The OC3 mission is to provide a collaborative environment to develop a stronger cyber security infrastructure and workforce.

Among the committee's goals is to create a cyber range – a virtual environment used for cybersecurity training and technology development. This unique collaboration will make Ohio a center of cyber excellence and innovation. A cyber range would provide a virtual environment to prepare our youth for careers in the cyber security field. The cyber range will enable us to hold competitions and training at all levels to include students from kindergarten to college. It will also provide our schools, governments and businesses a place to test cyber security infrastructure and software.

UAVs & Beyond Visual Range Systems

We have been working with the Air Force Research Laboratory and others to develop the first beyond line of sight unmanned aerial system mobile command and control capability for congested environments. Developing this area around Springfield will have positive implications for commercial and military applications of small unmanned aerial systems.

Currently, beyond line of sight flights are only authorized in restricted airspace, requiring personnel to travel to accomplish critical testing and training requirements. By

connecting to pre-existing air traffic control radars, we would have the ability to test and train locally in a safe and controlled environment.

If approved by the FAA, Ohio would be the first state to offer this capability and would put us on the forefront of an emerging commercial aviation market.

Ohio Military Facilities Commission

We are moving forward with the Ohio General Assembly's directive to provide administrative support to the Ohio Military Facilities Commission. The commission has \$5 million in grant funding to finance infrastructure capital improvements on military and defense installations in the state. Grants will be awarded prior to the end of state fiscal year 2017.

Ohio Federal Research Network

The Ohio Federal Research Network (OFRN) was created by the Ohio General Assembly in 2015 to grow federal research spending in Ohio; advance research initiatives aimed at emerging Department of Defense and NASA requirements; enhance university collaborations with Ohio-based small and medium size companies to engage them in the innovation process; create jobs in Ohio for government and industry-related activities; and most importantly have a broad and significant impact on Ohio's economy.

The OFRN has competitively awarded a total of \$15.8 million spread across 18 projects at six university-based OFRN centers of excellence; and done so through a robust and highly competitive process that engaged key leaders and practitioners as evaluators.

A key driver for the creation of the OFRN was to incentivize Ohio's universities and industry partners to collaborate with a focus on federal opportunities and industry sponsored research to leverage the state investment. At present, thanks to OFRN, multiple universities across the state are pursuing joint proposal efforts totaling over \$193 million through the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Air Force

Research Laboratory, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Army Research Office, NASA and the Office of Naval Research.

Conclusion

Chairman McColley, Rep. Reece and esteemed committee members, thank you for your continued support of our Soldiers and Airmen. Your Ohio National Guard is a tremendous asset for the State and Nation. From a State revenue perspective, it pays for itself, provides much-needed capabilities, and provides opportunities for Ohioans to learn, grow and serve. I respectfully request your approval for the budget as submitted and want you to know that your Ohio National Guard stands ready to be the first choice for service and excellence in our community, state and federal missions.

Respectfully submitted,

Major General Mark E. Bartman
The Adjutant General