

National Guard: Answering the call since 1636



The National Guard will observe its 380th birthday Dec. 13, 2016. On this date in 1636, the first militia regiments in North America were organized in Massachusetts. Based upon an order of the Massachusetts Bay Colony's General Court, the colony's militia was organized into three permanent regiments to better defend the colony. Today, the descendants of these first regiments – the 181st Infantry, the 182nd Infantry, the 101st Field Artillery, and the 101st Engineer Battalion of the Massachusetts Army National Guard – share the distinction of being the oldest units in the U.S. military. The birth of the National Guard's oldest organized units is symbolic of the founding of all the state, territory, and District of Columbia militias that collectively make up today's National Guard.

The Air National Guard

Following the National Security Act of 1947, National Guard Army Air Forces units transferred to the Air National Guard as a reserve component of the Air Force.



A Unique Element of the Total Force

- The Air National Guard is a unique element of the Total Force that serves both community and country or, both state and federal government.
- The Guard responds to domestic emergencies, overseas combat missions, counterdrug efforts, reconstruction missions and more.
- State governors or the President of the United States can call on the Guard in a moment's notice, however, Guard Soldiers' primary area of operation is their home state.
- Guard Soldiers hold civilian jobs or attend college while maintaining their military training part time.

December is National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

During the holidays, a season including an increase in travel and celebrations, remain vigilant and aware of drivers that are distracted or under the influence of drugs or alcohol. While enjoying the holiday spirit with family and friends, remember to:

- Always drive sober and alert
- Plan ahead by designating a non-drinking driver
- Stay in place if impaired
- Remind drivers to stay focused on the road and limit distractions

► RESOURCES

Website access to the following resources can be gained by clicking on the name.

[AF.mil](#)

[Airman magazine](#)

[Military OneSource/HomeFront](#)

[Air Force Personnel Center](#)

[Air Reserve Personnel Center](#)

[Department of Defense News](#)

[Department of Veteran Affairs](#)

[TRICARE](#)

[U.S. Government Website](#)

[Air Force Association Scholarships](#)

[Air Force Safety Center](#)

[Civil Service Employment Opportunities](#)

[NAF Employment Opportunities](#)

[Air Force Bands/Outreach](#)

► THIS WEEK IN AIR FORCE HISTORY

Dec. 8, 1976 - The full-scale development version of the F-16A Fighting Falcon made its maiden flight at Fort Worth, Texas

Dec. 9, 2006 - TSgt. Eric M. Olson, a loadmaster from the 313th Airlift Squadron, helped his aircrew safely land a C-17 hit by enemy fire while leaving Baghdad International Airport. Olson executed his emergency checklists, tended to a wounded passenger and calmly readied the other passengers for an emergency landing. For his actions, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Dec. 10, 1965 - Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara announced the development of the FB-111, a strategic and tactical F-111 bomber to replace the retiring B-58s and B-52s.

Dec 11, 1986 - The F-15E dual-role fighter made its first flight at St. Louis.

Dec. 12, 1944 - Maj. Richard I. Bong, 49th Fighter Group, 9th Fighter Squadron, with 38 aerial victories, received the Medal of Honor from Gen. MacArthur in ceremonies at Tacloban in the Philippines.

Dec. 13, 1941 - In an executive order, President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized the Secretary of War to take control of any civilian airline needed for the war effort. Contracts with the airlines permitted the purchase of aircraft and airline services.

Dec. 14, 1903 – Wilbur Wright made a first powered airplane flight at Kill Devil Hills, Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Although he flew 105 feet in 3.5 seconds, the plane crashed, and this effort was not recognized as the first sustained or controlled flight.

► LATEST NEWS

[Air Force releases candidate installations for next F-35A bases](#) Dannely Field Air Guard Station, Montgomery, Alabama; Gowen Field AGS, Boise, Idaho; Jacksonville AGS, Florida; Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Detroit and Truaz AGS, Madison, Wisconsin form the five-member pool of candidates for the next two Air National Guard F-35A locations. Next steps include the site survey teams assessing each location against operational requirements, potential impacts to existing missions, infrastructure and manpower, prior to developing cost estimates to bed down the F-35A.

[Scholarships for military children to open Dec. 13](#) The Scholarships for Military Children Program for the 2017-18 school year begins December 13 and closes February 12, 2017. Created to recognize the contributions of military families to the readiness of the fighting force and to celebrate the role of the commissary in the military family communities, at least one \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location where qualified applications are received.

For more information on Air Force heritage, visit <http://www.airforcehistory.af.mil>

The Defense Media Activity produces **Commander's Call Topics** weekly. For questions or comments about this, or any other DMA product, send an e-mail to afbionographies.dma@mail.mil

Subscribe to AF news and information products, go to <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDODAF/subscriber/new>