

Quarters Nine



Home of the National Guard



Welcome to Quarters Nine. Shannon and I are thrilled to welcome you to Quarters Nine and are eager to share with you the rich history of this stunning home, which illuminates the National Guard's legacy of service and excellence.

Quarters Nine originally housed junior officers associated with the Army Engineer School. After World War I, the commandants of the Army War College occupied the residence until the school closed during World War II. The National War College was established in its place, and its commandants also occupied Quarters Nine.

In 1948, the military reservation was renamed in honor of General Lesley J. McNair, Commanding General of Army Ground Forces in Europe, who was killed in his foxhole near St. Lo, France, in 1944.

General Frank Besson, commander of the US Army Materiel Command, was the first four-star general to live in Quarters Nine and moved into the residence in 1965. US Army Corps of Engineers leadership returned to Quarters Nine in 1984 and remained here until 2011.

Between 1978 and 2011, the Chiefs of the National Guard

Bureau lived in Quarters One. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 elevated the position of Chief of the National Guard Bureau to four-star general, and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 made the Chief of the National Guard Bureau a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Frank Grass was the first CNGB to live in Quarters Nine.

Like the Chiefs and spouses before us, when we moved into Quarters Nine we selected Heritage Paintings, artwork, and artifacts to display inside our home. Our choices reflect the connections between our family's history and the history of the National Guard. We are excited to share these stories with everyone who visits Quarters Nine, the home of our National Guard.

It is a privilege to be part of this home's remarkable legacy, and a privilege to represent the National Guard to all who pass through these doors. The National Guard remains Always Ready, Always There!

Steve and Shannon Nordhaus



Always Ready, Always There



The unique dual mission of the National Guard—to defend the United States and its interests all over the globe and to protect the life and property of the states, territories, and District of Columbia—is rooted in law and is executed across three synergistic mission sets: support the warfight, defend the homeland, and build partnerships.

The National Guard traces its origins to 13 December 1636, when the Massachusetts General Court ordered the establishment of three militia regiments for the fledgling Massachusetts Bay Colony. The North, South, and East Regiments first mustered in the spring of 1637. These militia-men formed the basis of what would become known as the National Guard, an integral component of America’s national defense. The oldest units in the Army National Guard—the 101st Engineer Battalion, the 101st Field Artillery Regiment, the 181st Infantry Regiment, and the 182d Infantry Regiment—perpetuate the lineage of these first units.

For almost 400 years the National Guard has been indispensable to the country’s national defense, and its organization and mission have evolved and expanded to meet increasingly complex global security and homeland response requirements. The National Guard was formally recognized as the organized militia in 1903 with the passage of the Dick Act, and subsequent legislation in 1908 required that it be organized, trained, and equipped to the same standards as the Regular Army. The 1916 National Defense Act codified the National Guard’s unique dual mission as a state and federal force and required Guardsmen to take oaths of allegiance to their states and to the Constitution, and in 1933 the National Guard Mobilization Act formally made the National Guard the reserve component of the Army.

The Air National Guard was established as the reserve component of the Air Force when the Air Force was created in 1947 and traces its lineage to the Army’s earliest aero squadrons and National Guard aviation units. Many of these units were first organized in the early 1900s, and their aviators served in World Wars I and II. On 30 May 1908, the first National Guard aviators gathered at the Park Avenue Armory in New York City and formed the First Aero Company, Signal Corps, New York National Guard. The 102d Rescue Squadron, New York Air National Guard, carries the lineage of this unit, making it the oldest unit in the Air National Guard. The 120th Fighter Squadron in Colorado Air National Guard was the first federally recognized Air National Guard unit, and was federally recognized on 30 June 1946—more than a year before the U.S. Air Force was established.

Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen-Airmen have served in every major campaign over the last four centuries. They battled the British in 1812 and fought for the Union in the Civil War. They served and sacrificed in World War I, World War II, and Korea, flew and fought bravely over and in the jungles of Vietnam, and served with honor in Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. National Guard Service members bring the same sense of dignity and purpose to help fellow Americans in the aftermath of hurricanes, wildfires, floods, tornadoes, and winter storms. At home and abroad, the National Guard builds enduring relationships with local, national, and global partners to improve resilience, enhance interoperability, and achieve global security goals.

Stronger Together, Stronger Tomorrow

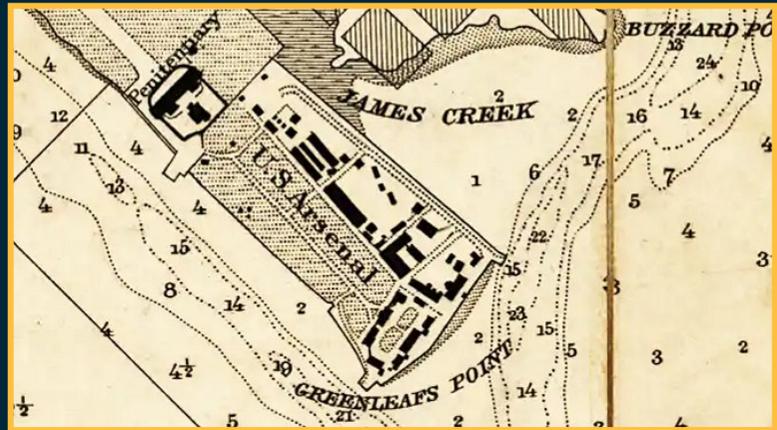
Greenleaf Point and Washington Arsenal

Fort McNair, the site of Quarters Nine, has a long and storied history and is one of the oldest continuously-occupied military installations in the country.

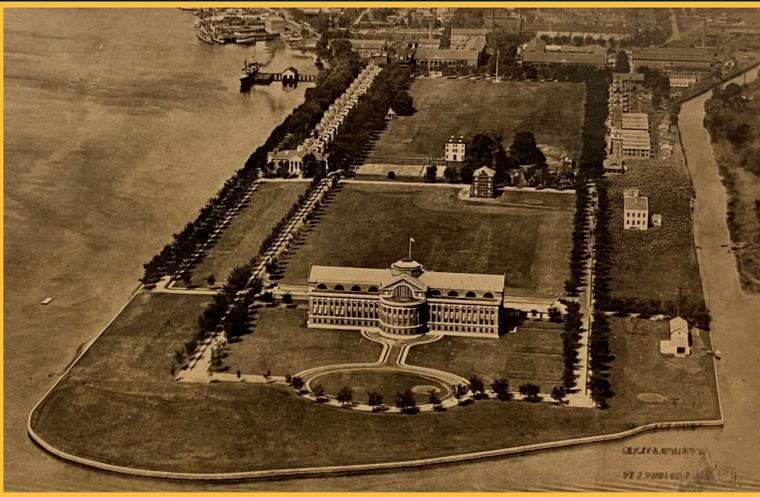
In 1791 President Washington appointed Pierre Charles L'Enfant, a French immigrant who fought in the Revolutionary War, to design the national capital. L'Enfant's plan called for fortifications on Greenleaf Point, the peninsula of land at the southern end of the federal district where the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers meet. Designated Military Reservation No. 5, a solitary gun mounted behind earth breastworks constituted the city's first defenses.

The Washington Arsenal functioned as a munitions depot, manufacturing facility, and armament storage for the nation's fledgling military. The installation was also home to the District of Columbia Federal Penitentiary and the Army General Hospital.

During the Civil War the Arsenal supplied much of the Union Army's ammunition, with much of the work done by young women and teenage girls. In June 1864, tragedy struck. The hot sun ignited fireworks laid outside to dry, and sparks entered the "choking" room, where workers fastened cartridge ends to balls. A spark entered the room through an open window and set fire to the cartridges and a barrel of gunpowder. The room exploded with enough force to lift the roof off the building. Twenty-one young women perished in the explosion.



Washington Barracks and Generals' Row



The District of Columbia Federal Penitentiary, surrounded by Arsenal grounds, closed in the early 1860s and its buildings were turned over to the Army. From May to June 1865, on the third floor of one of the old penitentiary buildings—renamed Grant Hall in the late 1900s—a military tribunal tried and convicted the conspirators responsible for Lincoln's assassination. The four who were sentenced to death, including Mary Surratt, were hanged in the courtyard outside.

When the Arsenal closed in 1881 the Army tore down older buildings and renovated others, and renamed the facilities Washington Barracks. Major Walter Reed, a faculty member at the U.S. Army Medical School, conducted groundbreaking malaria research at the Army General Hospital and identified mosquitoes as carriers of the disease. The new military hospital completed in 1909 in the northern part of the District was named for Reed.

In 1901 Secretary of War Elihu Root established the US Army War College at Washington Barracks. He hired McKim, Mead, & White—a prominent New York architectural firm—to redesign the facilities, including new housing for officers.

The row of stately officers' homes, completed in 1906, abuts the eastern bank of the Potomac and faces an expansive and tidy parade ground running from north to south. The Army War College, finished in 1907, anchored the campus at the southernmost point of the peninsula.

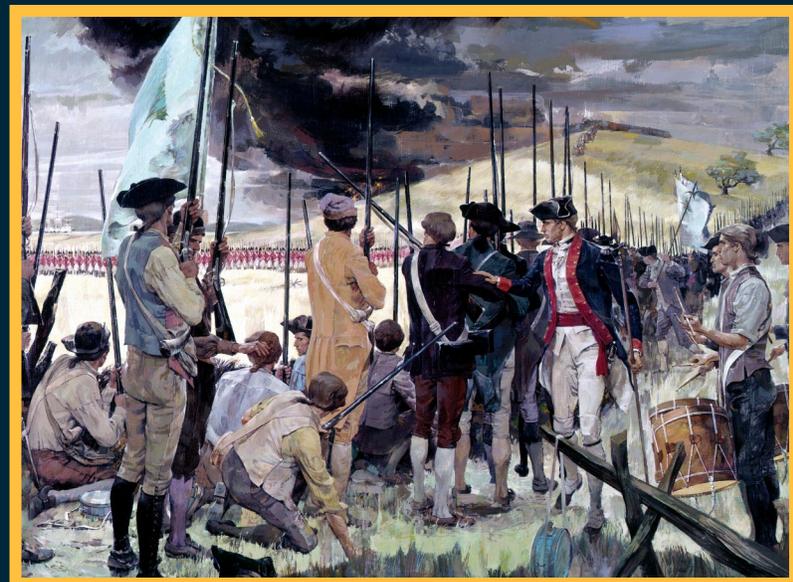
The **Original 29 Air National Guard Squadrons** were organized between World War I and World War II. Some were consolidated with air units that served in the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe. The observation squadrons conducted search and rescues and forest fire patrols, flew aerial photography and mapping sorties, and provided aerial observation support for Army exercises. During World War II, they were mobilized and absorbed into the divisions. Approximately 4,800 National Guard aviators trained Army Air Forces pilots and helped organize new air units, conducted aerial reconnaissance missions, and flew bombing raids. After the war, these squadrons, formed the basis of the modern Air National Guard.



Emanuel Leutze painted the massive 12'5" x 21'3" original of **Washington Crossing the Delaware** in 1851, portraying Washington leading his bedraggled Continental Army across the icy Delaware River on 25-26 December, 1776. The American victory over the Hessians in Trenton was hailed as a turning point in the Revolutionary War and gave the army the boost it needed after harsh winter conditions decimated its ranks and morale. The painting inspired patriotism among the American public in its depiction of "the daring spirits" who "in the midst of their sickness and misery know no thoughts of submission" and "dream not of purchasing health and comfort at the price of independence."

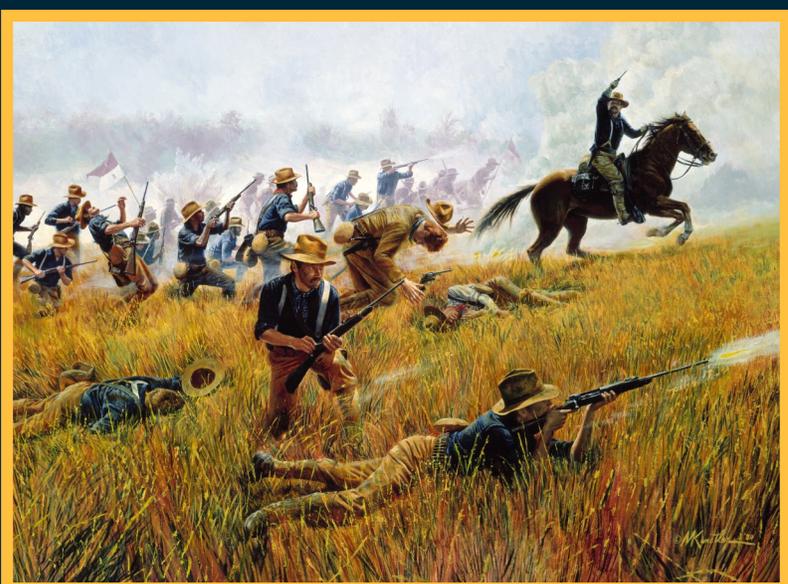


The Whites of Their Eyes recalls the militia's role at Bunker Hill. On 17 June 1775, farmer-turned-fighter Major General Israel Putnam rallied New England militiamen to defend Breed's Hill. To save ammunition and inflict maximum firepower, his men held fire until they could see the "whites of their eyes" and unleashed a devastating volley on the British regulars. The colonists lost the battle but inflicted massive casualties on the British and demonstrated an army of citizen-soldiers could not be easily defeated. Eight counties across the United States, including Putnam County, Ohio, bear Putnam's name to commemorate the bravery and devotion to duty he and his men displayed in battle.





The Peacemakers, painted in 1868 by George P.A. Healy, depicts a meeting aboard the Union steamer *River Queen* in late March 1865 between President Abraham Lincoln, Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, and Rear Adm. David D. Porter to discuss the prosecution of the war and the terms of the anticipated surrender. In his naval history of the war, Porter described it as “a council of war” during which the Commander-in-Chief sought the advice of his military leaders and asked “shrewd questions that were difficult to answer.” This painting, which also hangs in “The Tank” at the Pentagon, reminds us of the origins of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the relationship between military and civilian leadership.



The Rough Riders depicts the victorious charge of the 1st New Mexico Cavalry, in federal service as the 2d Squadron, 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, up Kettle Hill on 1 July 1898. Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, formerly a New York National Guardsman, commanded the troops who seized the high ground overlooking the city of Santiago. The American victory in the Battle of San Juan Hill led to the Spanish surrender two weeks later. The lineage of these New Mexico volunteers, described as “polo players, hunters, cowboys, Native Americans and athletic college buddies” whose “hearts beat loyally and fervently for the land of the free and the home of the brave” is carried by the 200th Infantry Regiment.



Scramble at Phan Rang captures the combat readiness and professionalism of the Colorado Air National Guard's 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron, today the 120th Fighter Squadron. Mobilized to support the U.S. response to North Korea's capture of the *USS Pueblo*, the 120th was the first ANG unit to deploy to Vietnam as a complete unit and arrived at Phan Rang Air Base on 3 May 1968. Only 51 days later, the 120th had flown its F-100C aircraft on 1,000 missions. During the year-long deployment the unit's aviators flew more than 10,000 hours and completed 6,127 sorties, including 5,905 combat missions, and sustained one of the highest operational readiness ratings in the Air Force.

The Old Flag Never Touched the Ground exemplifies the service and sacrifice of National Guardsmen. On 18 July 1863, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment led an assault on Fort Wagner, the Confederate stronghold that guarded the southern entrance of Charleston Harbor. Unable to return fire due to deadly volleys from Confederate artillery, the soldiers drew their bayonets and stormed the parapet. Sgt. William Carney, though severely wounded, refused to let the National Colors fall and was awarded the Medal of Honor for his valor and patriotism. This painting honors the over 125 National Guard men and women who have earned the Medal of Honor for their valiant service.

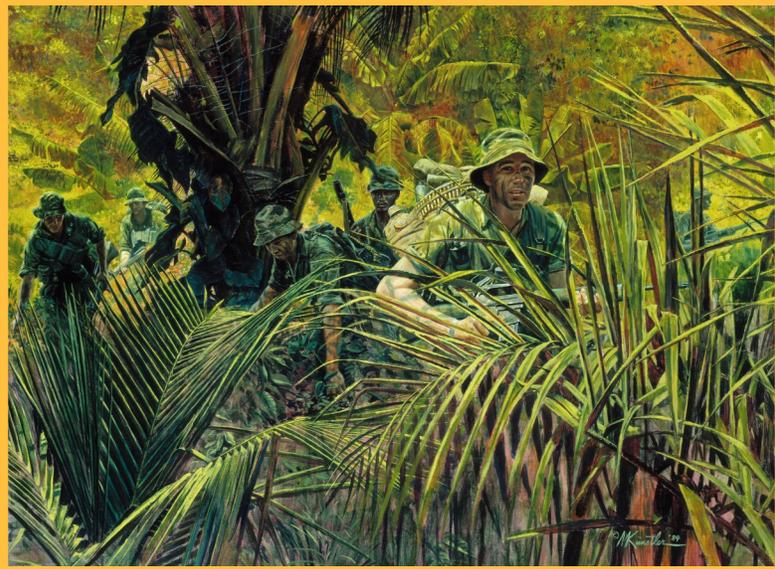


In the early 1950s the National Guard used the recruiting theme ***Keep Your Guard Up*** to help rebuild its strength after World War II and during the Korean War. The text and imagery recalled the National Guard's colonial lineage, and reminded Americans that the National Guard has always been ready, at a moment's notice, to protect its communities in times of need and defend the nation in times of conflict. Citizen-Soldiers and Citizen-Airmen are the heart and strength of the National Guard. Recruiting and retention efforts highlight the indispensable contributions the National Guard make to defending national interests abroad and protecting life and property at home.



Fire Over Ploesti displays the courage under fire of expert National Guard aviators like Lt. Col. Addison Baker. An Ohio Guardsmen, Baker commanded the 93d Bombardment Group during Operation TIDAL WAVE and led a low-level daytime raid to destroy the Ploesti oil refineries. When the lead aircraft went in the wrong direction and his B-24 caught fire, Baker chose to complete the mission. He led the remaining aircraft to the target site and dropped his ordnance. He was unable to regain altitude and he and his crew perished when the plane crashed. Baker, and other National Guard aviators like him, trained and led volunteer airmen during World War II and imparted a legacy of service, sacrifice, and professionalism.





Indiana Rangers commemorates the service of Company D (Ranger), 151st Infantry Regiment, Indiana Army National Guard. The Indiana Rangers were the only Army National Guard ground maneuver unit to deploy to Vietnam. Company D was called up in April 1968 and in Vietnam by 30 December 1968. During their one-year tour as a long-range reconnaissance patrol company, the Indiana Rangers conducted 974 patrols, participated in 94 combat engagements, and reported 134 enemy observations. The Indiana Guardsmen were one of the most decorated companies in the Army, with over 500 medals for their performance—a testament to the Army National Guard’s performance in Vietnam.



Mission Over Normandy recalls the indispensable contributions National Guard aviators made to the D-Day invasion at Normandy during World War II. The 107th Observation Squadron, one of the oldest flying units in the Air Force, deployed to England in 1942 as a tactical reconnaissance squadron. Its aviators flew solo, low-level sorties through the most dangerous skies in Europe to complete tactical, photographic, and weather reconnaissance missions. The 107th accrued over 7,665 flight hours and was recognized with a Distinguished Unit Citation. Thirteen of its pilots were killed in the line of duty. The 107th Fighter Squadron, Michigan Air National Guard, perpetuates the proud legacy of these “Red Devils.”



Operation Commando Buzz Between July 1970 and January 1971, 252 Airmen from Pennsylvania’s 193d Tactical Electronic Warfare Group volunteered to serve 30 to 60-day rotations for an exercise in support of U.S. Air Force operations in Southeast Asia. They flew unique radio relay missions with their EC-121 Super Constellations and achieved a 99 percent on-time take-off rate, earning the unit an Outstanding Unit Award with a “V” device for Valor. Their commander, Col. Nicholas J. Bereschak, attributed their success to teamwork, innovation, and improvisation—assets that continue to make the National Guard a vital part of national defense.



Chiefs of the National Guard Bureau and their Spouses



No.	CHIEF	SPOUSE	BRANCH	STATE	TERM
1.	COL Erasmus M. Weaver Jr.	Leize	Army*	Indiana	14 Feb 1908—14 Mar 1911
2.	BG Robert K. Evans	Jane	Army*	Mississippi	15 Mar 1911—31 Aug 1912
3.	MG Albert L. Mills	Alada	Army*	New York	1 Sep 1912—18 Sep 1916
4.	MG William A. Mann	Elsie	Army*	Pennsylvania	26 Oct 1916—26 Nov 1917
5.	MG Jesse Mcl. Carter	Flora	Army*	Missouri	26 Nov 1917—15 Aug 1918
6.	MG George C. Rickards	Amelia	Army	Pennsylvania	29 Jun 1921—28 Jun 1925
7.	MG Creed C. Hammond	Bertha	Army	Oregon	29 Jun 1925—28 Jun 1929
8.	MG William G. Everson	Mary	Army	Indiana	1 Oct 1929—30 Nov 1931
9.	MG George E. Leach	Anita	Army	Minnesota	1 Dec 1931—30 Nov 1935
10.	MG Albert H. Blanding	Mildred	Army	Florida	31 Jan 1936—30 Jan 1940
11.	MG John F. Williams	Mary	Army	Missouri	31 Jan 1940—30 Jan 1944
12.	MG Butler B. Miltonberger	Caroline	Army	Nebraska	1 Feb 1946—29 Sep 1947
13.	MG Kenneth F. Cramer	Ruth	Army	Connecticut	30 Sep 1947—4 Sep 1950
14.	MG Raymond H. Fleming	Elna	Army	Louisiana	14 Aug 1951—15 Feb 1953
15.	MG Edgar C. Erickson	Nancy	Army	Massachusetts	22 Jun 1953—31 May 1959
16.	MG Donald W. McGowan	Helen	Army	New Jersey	20 Jul 1959—30 Aug 1963
17.	Maj. Gen. Winston P. Wilson	Margaret	Air Force	Arkansas	31 Aug 1963—31 Aug 1971
18.	MG Francis S. Greenlief	Mavis	Army	Nebraska	1 Sep 1971—23 Jun 1974
19.	LTG La Vern E. Weber	Bette	Army	Oklahoma	16 Aug 1974—15 Aug 1982
20.	LTG Emmett H. Walker Jr.	Elizabeth	Army	Mississippi	16 Aug 1982—15 Aug 1986
21.	LTG Herbert R. Temple Jr.	Patricia	Army	California	16 Aug 1986—31 Jan 1990
22.	Lt. Gen. John B. Conaway	Linda	Air Force	Kentucky	1 Feb 1990—1 Dec 1993
23.	LTG Edward D. Baca	Rita	Army	New Mexico	1 Oct 1994—31 Jul 1998
24.	Lt. Gen. Russell C. Davis	Shirley	Air Force	District of Columbia	4 Aug 1998—3 Aug 2002
25.	LTG H. Steven Blum	Susie	Army	Maryland	11 Apr 2003—17 Nov 2008
26.	Gen. Craig R. McKinley	Cheryl	Air Force	Florida	17 Nov 2008—6 Sep 2012
27.	GEN Frank J. Grass	Patricia	Army	Missouri	7 Sep 2012—3 Aug 2016
28.	Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel	Sally	Air Force	Texas	3 Aug 2016—3 Aug 2020
29.	GEN Daniel R. Hokanson	Kelly	Army	Oregon	3 Aug 2020—2 Aug 2024
30.	Gen. Steven S. Nordhaus	Shannon	Air Force	Ohio	3 Oct 2024–Present

*Regular Army; after 1921, per the National Defense Act of 1920, all Chiefs were National Guard officers