



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
Investigative Hearing

Norfolk Southern Railway general merchandise freight train 32N
derailment with subsequent hazardous material release and fires,
in East Palestine, Ohio, on February 3, 2023

GROUP	A
EXHIBIT	
20	

Agency / Organization

Ohio National Guard

Title

**Biography of
Major General John Harris, Jr.**



Biography

National Guard Bureau

General Officer Management Office, Arlington, VA



MAJOR GENERAL JOHN C. HARRIS, JR

The Adjutant General Ohio National Guard

Major General John C. Harris, Jr. is the Adjutant General, Ohio National Guard, Joint Force Headquarters, Columbus Ohio. General Harris assumed these duties on January 14, 2019. Appointed by the Governor, State of Ohio, General Harris serves as the Governor's principal adviser on all National Guard procedures and is responsible for both federal and state missions. The Ohio National Guard consists of the Ohio Army National Guard, Ohio Air National Guard, Ohio Military Reserve, and Ohio Naval Militia, totaling more than 16,000 personnel.

General Harris began his military career in 1981 when he enlisted in the Ohio Army National Guard. He received a commission in 1984 through Officer Candidate School. He has commanded at the platoon, detachment, company, squadron, and JFHQ levels. Recent assignments include Assistant Adjutant General – Army, Chief of Staff (Joint Force Headquarters), Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (Joint Force Headquarters), and Commander of Task Force Lancer in Kosovo.

EDUCATION:

1985 Aviation Officer Basic Course, Fort Rucker, Alabama
1986 Initial Entry Rotary Wing Course, Fort Rucker, Alabama
1992 Aviation Officer Advanced Course, Fort Rucker, Alabama
1993 The University of the State of New York, Bachelor of Science, Sociology, by correspondence
1995 Inspector General Course, Fort Belvoir, Virginia
1996 United States Army Command and General Staff College, CAS3 Resident Course, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
1999 United States Army Command and General Staff College, CSGOC, by correspondence
2006 United States Army War College, Masters, Strategic Studies, by correspondence
2012 United States Army War College, Adjutant General's National Security Seminar, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania
2012 United States Army War College, Senior Reserve Component Officer's Course, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania
2012 US NORTHCOM, Joint Task Force Commander's Training Course, Colorado Springs, Colorado
2013 National Institute of Science and Technology, Baldrige Executive Fellow, Washington, District of Columbia
2013 National Defense University, Capstone General and Flag Officer Course, Washington, District of Columbia

2014 National Defense University, Army Strategic Leadership Development Program – Intermediate, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
2014 Harvard Kennedy School, Senior Executives in National and International Security Course, Boston, Massachusetts
2015 National Defense University, Army Strategic Leadership Development Program – Advance, San Jose, California
2020 Syracuse University, National Security Management Course, Syracuse, New York

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. May 81 – June 84, Helicopter Repairer, Attack Helicopter Troop, 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Ohio Army National Guard, Worthington, Ohio
2. June 84 – February 85, Section Leader, Attack Helicopter Troop, 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Ohio Army National Guard, Worthington, Ohio
3. February 85 – February 86, UH1M Helicopter Pilot, Attack Helicopter Troop, 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Ohio Army National Guard, Worthington, Ohio
4. February 86 – September 86, Section Leader, Attack Helicopter Troop, 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Ohio Army National Guard, Worthington, Ohio
5. October 86 – February 88, Platoon Leader, Attack Helicopter Troop, 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Ohio Army National Guard, Worthington, Ohio
6. February 88 – October 89, Aide-de-Camp to the Adjutant General, Headquarters State Area Command, Ohio Army National Guard, Columbus, Ohio
7. November 89 – August 90, Platoon Leader, Company N, 4/107th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Ohio Army National Guard, Greensburg, Ohio
8. September 90 – December 91, Commander, Company C, 2-137th Aviation, Ohio Army National Guard, Columbus, Ohio
9. December 91 – February 94, Personnel Officer, 2-137th Aviation, Ohio Army National Guard, Columbus, Ohio
10. March 94 – August 95, Commander, Company B, 2-137th Aviation, Ohio Army National Guard, Columbus, Ohio
11. September 95 – December 97, Detailed Inspector General, Headquarters State Area Command, Ohio Army National Guard, Columbus, Ohio
12. January 98 – April 99, Executive Officer, 2-107th Cavalry, Ohio Army National Guard, Kettering, Ohio
13. April 99 – February 00, Assistant Chief of Staff, Headquarters State Area Command, Ohio Army National Guard, Columbus, Ohio
14. February 00 – August 01, Personnel Officer, 37th Brigade, 38th Infantry Division, Ohio Army National Guard, North Canton, Ohio
15. August 01 – June 04, Commander, 2-107th Cavalry, Ohio Army National Guard, Kettering, Ohio
16. June 04 – March 05, Commander, Task Force Lancer, Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo
17. March 05 – September 10, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, OHARNG Element, Joint Force Headquarters, Ohio Army National Guard, Columbus, Ohio
18. October 10 – January 11, Chief of Staff, Ohio Army National Guard, Columbus, Ohio
19. January 11 – January 19, Assistant Adjutant General for Army, Ohio Army National Guard, Columbus, Ohio
20. January 19 – Present, Adjutant General for Ohio National Guard, Columbus Ohio

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Rating: Senior Army Aviator
Flight Hours: 1,228
Aircraft Flown: AH-1, UH-1, OH-58
Pilot Wings From: Fort Rucker, Alabama

VALOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Legion of Merit (with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster)
Meritorious Service Medal (with 3 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters)
Army Commendation Medal (with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster)
Army Achievement Medal
Air Force Achievement Medal
Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster and 3 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters)
National Defense Service Medal (with 1 Bronze Service Star)
Kosovo Campaign Medal (with Bronze Star)
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Armed Forces Service Medal
Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with Gold Hourglass Device and M Device)
Army Service Ribbon
NATO Medal (Kosovo)
Ohio Distinguished Service Medal
Ohio Commendation Medal
Ohio Faithful Service Ribbon (with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster)
Ohio Special Service Ribbon (with numeral 2)
Ohio Award of Merit Ribbon
Ohio Basic Training Ribbon
Ohio Recruiter Achievement Ribbon
Army Superior Unit Award
Army Senior Aviator Badge
Aircraft Crewman Badge
Army Physical Fitness Badge

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS:

Board of Directors, Resurrecting Lives Foundation
National Guard Association of the United States
Army Aviation Association of America
United States Army War College Association
Ohio National Guard Association
Adjutants General Association of the United States

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:

Former Chairman, National Military Personnel Advisory Committee
Order of St. George, United States Armor Association
Meritorious Service Award, National Guard Association of the United States
Past President, Ohio National Guard Association

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTIONS:

Second Lieutenant 24 June 1984

First Lieutenant 23 June 1987

Captain, 28 May 1991

Major 12 July 1996

Lieutenant Colonel 9 November 2001

Colonel 30 September 2005

Brigadier General 17 February 2012

Major General 12 December 2014