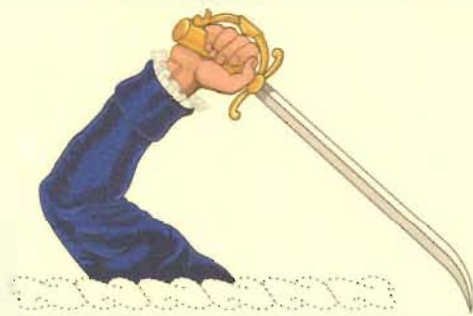


**HISTORY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE**  
**MILITARY DIVISION**  
**1778-2018**



MR  
355.6M3  
H578  
2018

**Leonid E. Kondratiuk**  
**Historical Services**  
**The Adjutant General's Office**  
**Concord, MA**  
**2018**

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE/MILITARY DIVISION 1778-2018

The Military Division, one of the oldest state agencies, was established on 13 March 1778 when Brig. Gen. Peleg Wadsworth was appointed Adjutant General (in 1908 the position was designated as The Adjutant General). The agency was designated as The Adjutant General's Office (TAGO) until 1943 when the state agency title became Military Division, however, the military designation remained TAGO. The Military Division, composed of the state staff and civilians, provides the senior leadership, administration, state financial support, military records, armories and installations for the Massachusetts National Guard.

General Wadsworth's duties were to receive orders from the governor and the Governor's Council and to pass them for action to the brigade commanders in each county. The governor, as captain general of the militia, received requests from the Continental Congress for short-term active duty militia regiments as reinforcements for the Continental Army. As the commander-in-chief of the militia, the governor was very much involved with the defense of the state. General Wadsworth transmitted orders to Maj. Gen. John Hancock, field commander of Massachusetts Militia regiments during the Rhode Island Campaign. General Wadsworth probably had two or more clerks who assisted him in writing and sending orders to militia commanders. In 1780 the Adjutant General was charged by the legislature to prepare an annual report on the status of the militia.

With the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783, Brig. Gen. Ebenezer Bridge, the second Adjutant General, turned his attention to the administration of the peacetime militia. TAGO was located at 18 Winter St., Boston where General Bridge and his clerks were busy issuing state commissions and orders. In 1787, the militia was organized into 13 infantry divisions. The major generals commanding, appointed by the legislature, were charged with training and readiness.

The Federal Militia Act of 1792 and the Massachusetts Militia Act of 1793 greatly increased the responsibilities of the Adjutant General. For the first time, the Adjutant General, as the primary point of contact between the War Department and the state, was required to forward reports concerning the readiness and equipping of the Massachusetts Militia.

Under Federal and state law, all men between the ages of 18 to 45 were required to serve in the militia. The amount of correspondence the office had to deal with was voluminous. Commissions, general orders, routine correspondence and other administrative matters were issued by TAGO.

With threats to the security of the state with the outbreak of Shay's Rebellion in 1786, possible war with France in 1798 and Great Britain 1807, and the War of 1812, resulted in alerts, mobilizations and deployment of units greatly added to the operations of the office. With the end of the war in 1814, the enrolled militia slowly began a general decline. The duties of the Quartermaster General was assumed by the Adjutant General as a cost-saving measure. In 1814, TAGO moved to the State House where it was stationed for the next 137 years.

In 1840, the enrolled militia and its units were disbanded. The Massachusetts Volunteer Militia was composed of men who volunteered to enlist and serve in units that were better organized, trained and equipped. The Adjutant General turned his attention to this 6,000 man force who drilled on a regular

basis and attended summer camps. The Adjutant General also supervised the state arsenal in Cambridge. By 1861, the MVM was the best trained and equipped state militia in the United States.

With the outbreak of the Civil War in April 1861, President Abraham Lincoln ordered the militia into federal service for 90 days, the maximum under the Militia Act. TAGO was initially tasked with providing four 90-day regiments shortly thereafter the office was tasked to provide 45 three-year regiments. The Adjutant General and his staff were overwhelmed with the recruiting, organizing, providing uniforms and arms and establishing mobilization camps for 45,000 men.

The legislature quickly authorized the appointment of six senior staff officers to include the Quartermaster General, Surgeon General, Chief of Ordnance, Commissary General, assistant Adjutants General and a fulltime commander for Camp Meigs, the state mobilization center. Also 40 clerks were authorized. Governor John Andrew, who personally selected all of the regimental officers, maintained his own personal military staff.

During the Civil War, TAGO ultimately organized and equipped 79 regiments and dozens of separate companies with 100,000 soldiers. It was an amazing feat. It was also the last time that the governor functioned as a wartime commander-in-chief.

After the war, TAGO downsized to a peacetime establishment. In 1872 the state established a permanent annual training and mobilization post designated as Camp Framingham. The state arsenal also moved to Camp Framingham.

During the mobilization for the Spanish American War in 1898, the call-up for the Mexican border crisis in 1916 and the mobilization for World War I were all coordinated by the state staff. By 1916, the state staff consisted of the TAG, Chief Judge Advocate, Chief Quartermaster, Chief Surgeon, Chief of Ordnance, and Assistant Adjutant General. The National Defense Act of 1916 authorized the US Property and Disbursing Officer who was a fulltime National Guard officer paid by the state until 1951 when he was placed on active duty Title 10 status.

During World War I, TAG and the US Property and Disbursing Officer were the only two National Guard officers remaining in the HQ as all others were on active duty. The staff was composed of state active duty organized militia officers recalled from the State Retired List. It was also the first time that the state staff wore uniforms while on duty. TAG was given Federal responsibilities as the Massachusetts Director of Selective Service from 1917-1919. He was assisted by a small Federally-paid civilian staff.

With the full mobilization of the Massachusetts National Guard, the state staff turned its attention to organizing, equipping and training the Massachusetts State Guard; the militia force that replaced the National Guard. In September 1919, the entire State Guard was ordered into active state service during the Boston Police Strike. The state staff functioned as an operational higher headquarters including a G-2 who headed the Intelligence Bureau.

From 1920 to 1923, TAGO reorganized the Massachusetts National Guard. This was a massive effort since the state assumed the entire 26<sup>th</sup> Division with new units, new force structure and recruiting personnel and appointing officers. TAGO consisted of a small corps of fulltime officers and civilian clerks and the state headquarters detachment that included enlisted personnel for the first time.

As part of the build-up of the US Army prior to World War II, for the first and only time in its history, the state headquarters detachment was mobilized in early 1941 and briefly functioned as a fulltime HQ before it was inactivated several months later. Its officers, including TAG, and enlisted soldiers were assigned to other Army units. In addition from 1940-1942, TAG was the Massachusetts Director of Selective Service.

The new state staff were officers recalled from the State Retired List and ordered into state active duty. The state staff wore their uniforms while on duty. Again their major mission was to administer the Massachusetts State Guard which was organized as a light infantry division.

In 1943, TAGO began calling itself the Military Division after a JAG opinion that it could not call itself the Military Department since the state constitution designated state agencies as divisions of government. For state purposes the agency was the Military Division, for military business it remained TAGO. The Army and the National Guard Bureau directed their correspondence to TAGO while it was the Military Division that reported to the governor. Technically, TAGO and Military Division are synonymous.

After the war, the active duty militia officers were released from duty and returning National Guard officers took their place. TAGO inactivated the State Guard and began planning for the reorganization of the National Guard. In 1947 the Army Air Forces units of the Massachusetts National Guard became part of the Massachusetts Air National Guard. The authorized grade of TAG was elevated to major general.

The force structure of the Massachusetts National Guard greatly increased; the force structure for the MAARNG included the 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, the 182d Regimental Combat Team, the 104<sup>th</sup> Antiaircraft Artillery Brigade and dozens of separate units. The ANG included the 51<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing (later designated the 102d) composed of two groups and various mission support squadrons. In order to train and administer the large force, NGB authorized a larger Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, MARNG and a new ANG state headquarters.

The HHD was both an M-Day unit and a fulltime headquarters which was called State Headquarters. It initially consisted of 100 personnel who drilled in an office building at Kenmore Square, Boston. The primary staff remained in the State House. In 1951 both staffs moved to a new building at 905 Commonwealth Avenue in front of Commonwealth Armory. The size of the fulltime state headquarters greatly expanded as military technicians, for the first time, were authorized. The technicians were state employees with the state reimbursed by NGB. The HHD also drilled one night a week later changed to one weekend a month.

In 1953, Chapter 33 Militia, Massachusetts General Laws was revised. The Military Division state staff was expanded to include the TAG, four Assistant Adjutants General with one designated as the Executive Officer and one designated as Assistant Adjutant General (Air) and the State Quartermaster. The following positions were part-time: State Surgeon, State Judge Advocate, State Engineer, Inspector General and State Ordnance Officer. The fulltime staff was considered to be on State Active Duty.

The State Headquarters was one blended staff with the Asst. Adjutants Generals serving as the G-1 and G-3 who supervised technicians and civilians with the agency designated as TAGO. In addition, there was a drill-status Chief of Staff in the grade of brigadier general. The position was changed around 1970 to Asst. Adjutant General.

In 1968, the military technicians were reclassified as Federal employees. This led to a gradual process whereby two staffs gradually emerged: the state staff/Military Division and the ARNG TAGO staff. The ANG state headquarters was also converted from state technicians to Federal technicians at HQ, Massachusetts Air National Guard at Wellesley ANG Station.

The state staff turned to primarily state matters dealing with the National Guard while the ARNG TAGO staff continued its daily duties of organization, training and equipping units. The state Asst. Adjutants General were replaced by a chief of staff, in the grade of colonel, and two colonels who functioned as the G-1 and G-3.

In 1983, HHD, MAARNG was redesignated as HQ, State Area Command, MAARNG. The ARNG staff began calling itself STARC and the informal designation of State Headquarters began to fade. In 1988, the Military Division and STARC moved to Camp Curtis Guild. In 1996, the two staffs moved to Milford.

In 2003, the fulltime ARNG HQ and the M-Day unit were redesignated as Joint Force HQ, MAARNG. Under NGB guidance, a fourth staff was added the Joint Staff with both Army and Air elements. The ARNG staff was now called Joint Force HQ. All four staffs occupied the new building at Hanscom AFB called Joint Force HQ in 2012.

Since 1778, TAG and his staffs have evolved as times changed, however, the basic mission of administering, training, organizing and equipping the National Guard has continued for 240 years.

)  
)

)  
)