



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

TED STRICKLAND, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY L. WAYT, ADJUTANT GENERAL

For immediate release

Media Advisory
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Ohio to participate in largest ever National Guard Bureau training exercise

The Ohio National Guard, in conjunction with the Indiana and Illinois National Guards, will participate in the largest-ever National Guard Bureau exercise, named VIGILANT GUARD. VIGILANT GUARD will take place May 10-15 across two locations; Camp Atterbury Joint Forces Maneuver Training Center (CAMTC), Indiana and Muscatatuck Urban Training Center (MUTC), Indiana.

In addition, the US Northern Command (NORTHCOM) will conduct a concurrent exercise dubbed ARDENT SENTRY in various locations around the country.

The two exercises will be conducted simultaneously to replicate a real-world response to a major terrorist attack on American soil. The scenario will simulate the detonation of a nuclear device in a major metropolitan area, with Muscatatuck replicating the targeted city. Muscatatuck's setup as a Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) site will allow for a very real and complex training experience.

The training will commence with VIGILANT GUARD, highlighting the National Guard's role as the nation's military support to local authorities in times of domestic crises. The exercise will require the deployment of approximately 2,000 Guardmembers, 450 from Ohio, into the affected area to employ their advanced terrorism-response capabilities.

The exercise will also involve 400 local responders and rigorously test the Guard's ability to support local and state civilian authorities, incident and unified commanders and the states' emergency management agencies.

US Northern Command's exercise, ARDENT SENTRY/NORTHERN EDGE 07 will respond to the simulated crisis on a federal level by reinforcing the capabilities of the National Guard and local first responders already committed to the incident area.

Some of the key training objectives leaders hope to accomplish are: understanding how to integrate state, regional and federal assets (military and civilian) during a crisis; refining plans and procedures currently in place during a crisis event; and exploring ways to manage changes that would enhance homeland readiness and initiate an interstate Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) plan.

Participants:

Civilian: Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), Indiana Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Marion County EMA, Marion County first responders, surrounding county first responders, HAZMAT, civilian law enforcement, Indiana Tactical Medical Emergency Support, Department of Energy and many more.

Military: Department of Defense, NORTHCOM, National Guard Bureau, Indiana National Guard, Illinois National Guard and the Ohio National Guard.

Ohio National Guard units participating: Joint Task Force (JTF) 73; 179 Airlift Wing; 269 Combat Communications Squadron; 52 Civil Support Team (CST) (Weapons of Mass Destruction); Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive (CBRNE)-Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) and the National Guard Reaction Force (NGRF).

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) will run a Joint Information Center (JIC), in addition to a military JIC co-located at Camp Atterbury, IN. This is a rare and extraordinary opportunity to observe civilian and military personnel functioning together to respond to a crisis situation.

EMBED OPPORTUNITIES:

The opportunity exists to travel with Soldiers from the Ohio National Guard. However, seats are limited and will most likely be given to the media outlets that respond by the designated time. If media personnel wish to embed with a unit, they are expected to move and stay with the unit for the duration of the exercise. Below are tentative movement plans:

May 10-14

- CERFP (located in Middleton) will travel by ground, first consolidating in Middleton and moving to Camp Atterbury. There are four seats available for print or broadcast media.

May 11-14

- NGRF (located in Chagrin Falls) will deploy by ground from the Cleveland/Chagrin Falls area and deploy to MUTC. There are two seats available for print or broadcast media.

May 12-14

- JTF 73 (located at RANGB) will fly via C-130 aircraft from Mansfield Air National Guard Base into CAMTC. The JTF 73 commanding general, Brig. Gen. Jack Lee, will command all of the Ohio National Guard assets. JTF 73 headquarters has room for four embedded print or broadcast media.

- The 52nd CST (located at RANGD) will fly via C-130 aircraft from Mansfield Air National Guard Base into Camp Atterbury and have room for four embedded print or broadcast media.

May 12 is designated as Media/VIP day.

- There will be an opportunity to fly to Camp Atterbury on the morning of May 12 via a C-130 aircraft (time to be determined), receive a media brief, tour the Mascatatuck facility and see our Soldiers in action. You would then be flown back sometime in the early evening hours.

TIMES AND EXACT LOCATIONS WILL BE COORDINATED THROUGH THE OHIO NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE.

Space is limited, so again, if you would like to participate, the sooner the better in getting us your information.

The following information will be required to receive credentials at the JIC.

1. Name: (Last, First)
2. SSN (Last Four Digits)
3. Requesting Agency
4. Phone Number

The deadline for submitting names is April 24, 2007, at 1200. Submit your information to Capt. Marshall Jackson at marshall.jackson@tagoh.gov.

If you wish to participate in the exercise but are unable to stay for the duration of an embed, you will need to coordinate your plans to drive to Camp Atterbury with the Ohio National Guard public affairs office so we may arrange credentials to gain access to CAMTC and MUTC. Since CAMTC is an active duty mobilization center for Soldiers that are deploying worldwide, security forces do not let media on-post without authorization. Once you obtain credentials, you will be escorted to the exercise area.

Unit departure times vary and will not be finalized until several days prior to the exercise. Part of the simulation dictates that the majority of the Soldiers remain unaware about the simulation and be called in to respond as they would during a real-world situation.

Please feel free to call me anytime. All coordination must be finalized by May 8 at 12:00 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: The Ohio National Guard Public Affairs Office at 614-336-7000 or Capt. Marshall Jackson at 614-336-7001