



# Ohio Adjutant General's Department

TED STRICKLAND, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY L. WAYT, ADJUTANT GENERAL

## News Release

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## Community turns out to support Ohio's Military Families

MEDINA, Ohio—A crowd of more than 100 people gathered March 5 at the Medina Performing Arts Center to participate in a town hall meeting organized by the Ohio National Guard.

The meeting is the first in the organization's Operation: O.H.I.O. (Ohio Helps Its Own), six statewide events intended to help individuals and organizations marshal their efforts in support of families of deployed or deploying military members.

"We are very fortunate that since the beginning, Ohioans have been enthusiastic supporters of our servicemembers and their families," said Capt. Katie Enochs, assistant director of the Ohio National Guard Family Readiness Program. "Our efforts in these town hall meetings are focused on helping to channel that enthusiasm."

Nearly 16,000 of Ohio's 29,000 reserve component troops serve in the National Guard. In the years since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the Ohio National Guard has deployed more than 13,000 men and women in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

"Every time one of our troops deploys, they leave behind loved ones—a child, a spouse or a parent—who are making their own sacrifices, and who may need assistance," said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general. "Providing support for the families left behind alleviates one very important potential source of distraction. The troops can then focus on performing their missions safely and effectively."

The National Guard will be hosting five additional town hall events throughout the state over the next several weeks in Nelsonville, Dublin, Perrysburg, Hamilton and Kettering. The dates and locations of those events can be found at the "Operation: O.H.I.O." link on the Ohio National Guard's website at [www.ohionationalguard.com](http://www.ohionationalguard.com).

### CUTLINES:

WEB TRS 01: Staff Sgt. Theresa Killingsworth of the Ohio Army National Guard's Cleveland-based 237th Brigade Support Battalion and her husband, Kent, describe the challenges they faced during her 2005 deployment to Iraq. (Photo by Johann Klein, Ohio Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs) (Released)

**Ohio Adjutant General's Department, 2825 West Dublin Granville Road,  
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789 ♦ [www.ohionationalguard.com](http://www.ohionationalguard.com)**

WEB TRS 02: Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, fields questions March 5 during a town hall meeting at the Medina Performing Arts Center. More than 100 people participated in the National Guard-sponsored event, the first of six planned meetings statewide. The panelists: Kent Killingsworth (from left), Staff Sgt. Theresa Killingsworth, Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Col. John Harris and Lt. Col. Robert Bramlish. (Photo by Johann Klein, Ohio Adjutant General's Department Public Affairs) (Released)

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: The Ohio National Guard Public Affairs Office at 614-336-7000. Please visit our public website for more information about the Ohio National Guard at [www.ohionalnationalguard.com](http://www.ohionalnationalguard.com)**