



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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Defense Department cancels Ohio Army National Guard engineer unit's upcoming deployment to West Africa

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Members of the Ohio Army National Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Engineer Brigade, located in Columbus, Ohio, will not be deploying this spring in support of Operation United Assistance, the U.S. government's mission supporting civilian-led humanitarian efforts to combat the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa.

According to Department of Defense officials, the rapid deployment of military personnel last year provided the international civilian response by non-government organizations, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations sufficient support and time to grow their capability and capacity on the ground in the West African countries of Liberia and Senegal.

Because of the successfully established operations by civilian entities over the past few months, Defense Department officials said that the ongoing work of Operation United Assistance did not require the support of several National Guard units initially considered for the deployment last November, including the 16th Engineer Brigade.

The Defense Department said the U.S. is now backing more than 10,000 civilian responders in various areas of West Africa, providing direct and indirect health care support, as well as many other functions that were previously being handled by U.S. service members supporting Operation United Assistance.

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