



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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For Immediate Release

Ohio National Guard helicopters and crews to leave for Hurricane Maria response effort

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Two Ohio Army National Guard helicopters and their crews will be transported to Puerto Rico on a C-17 Globemaster III today to provide logistical support to the Hurricane Maria response.

The 16 Soldiers and two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment, based in Columbus, are scheduled to depart at 7 p.m. today, Oct. 26, from Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus.

The helicopters will be used to transport food, water and personnel to areas isolated by damaged roads and infrastructure.

Since Hurricane Harvey in late August, more than 200 Ohio National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have supported hurricane relief efforts in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Ohio National Guard has more than 16,000 personnel and is the nation's fourth-largest National Guard. The Ohio National Guard responds with ready units and personnel when called for federal, state and community missions, and is an operational reserve of the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force.

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NEWSROOM NOTE: Media interested in covering the deployment MUST RSVP no later than 5 p.m. today to Stephanie Beougher at 614-506-3490 or stephanie.k.beougher.nfg@mail.mil for coordination to gain access to the base. Please plan to arrive promptly at 5:30 p.m. with a government-issued photo ID and media credentials. Late arrivals cannot be accommodated.

For current information and stories on the Ohio National Guard support to hurricane relief efforts:

<http://ong.ohio.gov/stories/2017/AID/20170830-AID.html>

The Buckeye Guard digital magazine and newscast: <http://ong.ohio.gov/BuckeyeGuard.html>
<http://ong.ohio.gov>

<http://www.facebook.com/TheOhioNationalGuard>

<http://twitter.com/OHNationalGuard>

<http://www.flickr.com/ohionationalguard>

<http://www.youtube.com/OhioNationalGuard>

<https://www.instagram.com/ohionationalguard>