



# Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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For Immediate Release

## Ohio National Guard welcomes home medical company from hurricane relief efforts in Puerto Rico

COLUMBUS, Ohio — An Ohio National Guard medical company deployed to Puerto Rico will begin returning home tonight. About half of the nearly 60 members of the Ohio Army National Guard's 285th Medical Company (Area Support) are expected to arrive at about 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16 at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, Ohio. The rest of the company will arrive on a separate flight the following day.

The [285th ASMC](#), based in Columbus, flew to Puerto Rico on Oct. 3 and 5. The combat medics assisted more than 2,000 patients at four different locations, including the cities of Ponce and Manati, as part of the relief response following Hurricane Maria. Operating in two, 12-hour shifts around the clock, members of the unit also went into the mountains for daily outreach missions to help residents who couldn't make it to the city.

Since the first hurricane made landfall in August, more than 400 men and women of the Ohio National Guard have been engaged with rescue and relief efforts in Texas, Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

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 Soldiers' return this evening should arrive at the main gate at 7 p.m. in order to gain entry to the base, and must RSVP by 5 p.m. to Senior Master Sgt. Ralph Branson at 614-562-2431. A government-issued photo ID and media credentials are required.

The RANGB main entrance gate is on 2nd St., which intersects with Airbase Road/Rickenbacker Parkway West. It is located in the vicinity of 7370 Minuteman Way,

Columbus, Ohio 43217. Entering the Rickenbacker International Airport (civilian/commercial) side, off of Alum Creek Drive, will not grant access to the Air National Guard base.

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>