



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

TED STRICKLAND, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY L. WAYT, ADJUTANT GENERAL

Media Advisory
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For immediate release

Media Advisory

Joint Army-Air Basing to Expand Ohio National Guard Presence at Mansfield-Lahm Airport

COLUMBUS, Ohio - As the first step in a long-term strategy to build a joint forces "hub" for Ohio National Guard operations at Mansfield-Lahm Airport, the newest of the Army Guard Fire Stations will host an official ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10 a.m., Friday, May 30, 2008.

This new \$1.2 million facility encompasses more than 7,000 square feet and includes two vehicle bays with accompanying administrative and storage areas. Two full-time Army National Guard personnel are to be stationed there, along with 16 part-time firefighters. This new facility will support the 5684th, 295th and 296th Ohio Army National Guard Engineer Detachments. The units are trained in aircraft firefighting techniques along with extracting crews and passengers when necessary.

Located directly adjacent to the 179th Airlift Wing's fire fighting facility, the resident engineer detachments can participate in joint training with their Air counterpart in close proximity to actual aircraft operations.

"Not only is combined training much more effective, there will be significant savings in facility costs," said Maj. Gen. Greg Wayt, Ohio's Adjutant General. "This is just the beginning. The next five years will see construction of a large Army Reserve Center that will be home to the 1486th Transportation Company, the Army Reserve's 983rd Engineer Detachment, and two Ohio National Guard Fire Fighting Teams. Mansfield-Lahm will be a model Joint Ohio National Guard facility."

Adding to the base's value and as part of the Ohio National Guard's 20-year program to support transformation and modernization, Mansfield Lahm will also house a new Ohio Air Guard Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers (REDHORSE) unit of two-hundred members.

Wayt envisions a joint operations hub centered on the new C-27B Joint Cargo Aircraft, slated to replace the 179th Airlift Wing's current C-130 fleet in 2012 or 2013. "Airlift is the capability which transforms these Ohio National Guard units into a rapid response force to

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deal with natural and man-made disasters in the homeland and to support warfighting operations when called,” said Wayt.

WHO: The Ohio National Guard and Distinguished Guests

WHAT: Official Ribbon Cutting ceremony for Fire Station

WHEN: 10 - 11 a.m., Friday, May 30, 2008

WHERE: Mansfield-Lahm Airport, 1947 Harrington Memorial Road, Mansfield, Ohio, 44903

HOW: Media, If you plan to attend, arrive 30 minutes early with acceptable photo ID and contact 179th Airlift Wing Public Affairs Officer, 1Lt Nicole Ashcroft at (419) 520-6377 or cell (419) 295-6483, to get access to the base.

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