



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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Media Advisory
July 9, 2009
Log # 09-33

2009 National Rifle Matches set to begin

PORT CLINTON, Ohio - More than 6,000 competitive and recreational shooters are expected to take part in the National Rifle and Pistol Matches hosted at Camp Perry Joint Training Site beginning July 13.

Each year the National Matches are hosted at Camp Perry Training Site, located near Port Clinton, through a partnership between the Ohio National Guard, the National Rifle Association and the Civilian Marksmanship Program.

Considered America's "World Series of the Shooting Sports," the matches attract shooting sports competitors from across the nation to compete in a variety of events.

"Our facility is home to the largest outdoor rifle range in the world and we are looking forward to hosting this national event" said Col. Dean Brown, Camp Perry Training Site commander since 2008.

The National Matches traditionally begin with the ceremonial "First Shot" and encompasses both the National Rifle and Pistol Championships, conducted by the National Rifle Association, and the National Trophy Matches, conducted by the Civilian Marksmanship Program.

The "First Shot" ceremony serves as the kick-off to the matches and each year attracts local, state and national elected officials as well as military members.

Ohio Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher will attend the ceremony set for 5:30 p.m. Monday, July 13 on Camp Perry's Rodriguez Range.

Brig. Gen. Melvin Spiese, Commanding General, U. S. Marine Corps Training and Education Command at Quantico Marine Corp Base, Virginia, is scheduled to be the guest of honor. After his comments, Spiese will have the honor of firing the

competition's first shot with a specially selected World War II and Korean War era M1 Garand rifle.

The event is an economic boon to the local area, contributing more than \$10 million annually, according to Port Clinton officials. The matches also have a larger economic impact of \$15-\$20 million to the northwest corridor of Ohio.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: The Ohio National Guard Public Affairs Office at 614-336-7000.