



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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For Immediate Release

Ohio National Guard sends team to Puerto Rico in preparation for support to recovery efforts

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio National Guard will send about 30 Soldiers to Puerto Rico to prepare for the deployment of the units' remaining Soldiers, today, Oct. 3, at approximately 1:45 p.m. from the 121st Air Refueling Wing, located at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus.

The 121st ARW will be transporting the advanced team, Soldiers from two different units, on a KC-135 Stratotanker to conduct logistical and operational assessments prior to the [285th Area Support Medical Company](#), based in Columbus, and the [137th Signal Company](#), based in Newark, departing to assist in hurricane relief efforts.

The medical company is capable of providing medical support such as trauma health care, preventive medicine consultation, optometry support, mental health consultation and ground evacuation of patients.

The signal company can provide communication capabilities with mobile satellite, electricity, telephone, internet and video conferencing, and information technology services.

The 121st ARW operates the KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft that is capable of delivering worldwide air refueling, disaster response and combat support.

Currently, the Ohio National Guard has more than 30 Airmen from the 200th RED HORSE Squadron, from Port Clinton, and the 269th Combat Communications Squadron, from Springfield, in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The RED HORSE (Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer) Squadron is establishing Disaster Relief Bed-down Systems (DRBS), deployable kits that are capable of providing basic housing and life support facilities such as showers and restrooms. The 269th is providing communications support for first responders and other government agencies to include the U.S. departments of Energy, Transportation and Natural Resources.

NEWSROOM NOTE: Media interested in covering the Soldiers' departure must contact Stephanie Beougher at 614-506-3490 or stephanie.k.beougher.nfg@mail.mil for coordination to gain access to the base (government-issued photo ID and media credentials required). Please RSVP no later than 12 p.m.

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>

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