

Ohio Adjutant General's Department

Mike DeWine, Governor

Major General John C. Harris Jr., Adjutant General

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For Immediate Release

Statement regarding Ohio National Guard member removed from Washington D.C. mission

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A member of the Ohio Army National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment, based in Northwest Ohio, was removed from the Washington D.C. mission after allegations of ties to an extremist organization. The private first class has been a member since May 2018. The name of the Soldier and any further information is not being released at this time while the investigation is ongoing.

We are cooperating with an FBI investigation and we are looking into this matter internally.

If true, these are egregious allegations. The Ohio National Guard is a diverse and inclusive organization of nearly 17,000 men and women. Racism and prejudice has no place in our organization. Every member of the Ohio National Guard is held to a high standard of professionalism. Ohio knows and trusts its National Guard. Any threat to that public trust will not be tolerated. It is our purpose to treat every person we encounter with dignity and respect.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Stephanie Beougher, public information officer, at 614-506-3490 or <u>stephanie.k.beougher.nfg@mail.mil</u>.

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