



Ohio Adjutant General's Department

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Camp Perry to Celebrate 100th Anniversary

Port Clinton - More than 6,000 competitive and recreational shooters are expected to take part in a centennial celebration this July – the 100th anniversary of the Ohio National Guard's Camp Perry hosting the National Rifle and Pistol Matches.

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.

"I can tell you without a doubt this camp is rich in history and now stands as a world-class facility with the largest outdoor rifle range in the world," said Col. James Chisman, Camp Perry Training Site commander since 2005.

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 Gov. Ted Strickland will attend the ceremony set for 5:30 p.m. Monday, July 9 on Camp Perry's Rodriguez Range. John McLaurin III, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for human resources, is scheduled to be the guest of honor. After his comments, McLaurin will have the honor of firing the competition's first shot with a specially selected AR-15 competition service rifle.

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

As part of the centennial celebration visitors can see reenactments of events representing the various wars in American history and the on-post museum will include displays focusing on specific eras of military history.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: The Ohio National Guard Public Affairs Office at 614-336-7000 or Capt. Marshall Jackson at 614-336-7001

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