



# Ohio Adjutant General's Department

TED STRICKLAND, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL GREGORY L. WAYT, ADJUTANT GENERAL

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## Media Advisory

### ***Ohio National Guard to support Louisiana in preparation for Hurricane Gustav***

COLUMBUS, Ohio – In response to a request from Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, the Ohio National Guard is preparing to mobilize Soldiers from Company B, 238<sup>th</sup> General Support Aviation Battalion (Akron). The unit will provide one CH-47 Chinook Helicopter and five crew members to assist with disaster preparation for Tropical Storm Gustav. The helicopter and crew are scheduled to deploy sometime this weekend.

The unit may be tasked with logistical prepositioning of critical supplies, search and rescue operations and transportation of evacuees.

The assistance is being provided under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a national mutual aid and partnership agreement that allows state-to-state assistance during states of emergencies declared by the Governor or President. Governor Strickland signed the emergency declaration earlier this evening. The agreement provides a responsive and straightforward system for first responders and the National Guard in unaffected states to send personnel and equipment to help disaster relief efforts in affected states.

“We all hope that the impact of the storm will be minimal, but the State of Louisiana is seeking to have essential personnel and critical equipment prepositioned to provide any response that may be required as quickly as possible,” said Maj. Gen. Gregory L. Wayt, Ohio’s adjutant general. “We are prepared to assist other states during their time of need, just as we are prepared to provide assistance to the citizens of Ohio.”

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Ohio National Guard provided nearly 1,500 Soldiers and Airmen for response and recovery efforts in Louisiana and Mississippi, followed less than a month later by the deployment of another 1,200 Soldiers and Airmen to Louisiana in response to Hurricane Rita. Information about those deployments can be found at [www.ohionationalguard.com/pao/buckeyeguard/response.pdf](http://www.ohionationalguard.com/pao/buckeyeguard/response.pdf).

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: The Ohio National Guard Public Affairs Office at 614-336-7000 or Dr. Mark Wayda at 614-336-7174 or 614-496-3807 (cell). For more information on the Ohio National Guard, please visit our public website at [www.ohionationalguard.com](http://www.ohionationalguard.com).