



MEDIA RELEASE

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DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY

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CONTACT: RANDY HARRIS
615-313-0662(OFFICE)
615-517-0984(CELL)

TENNESSEE GUARD PREPARES FOR GUSTAV

NASHVILLE - Soldiers and Airmen of the Tennessee National Guard are "gearing up" to respond to Hurricane Gustav. More than 3,500 organized evacuees have already arrived at Tennessee Air National Guard bases in Nashville, Knoxville, and Memphis.

The first plane arrived at McGee Tyson Air National Guard base in Knoxville at about 7:30 p.m. EST. Nashville's initial flight arrived shortly after 9 p.m. at the Air National Guard base at Berry Field. A total of eight flights, three to Knoxville and five to Nashville, carrying 851 evacuees landed throughout the night. In addition to the flights, an Amtrak train carrying 1,404 evacuees arrived in Memphis late Saturday.

Evacuees were taken to area shelters set up by local Emergency Management and manned by the American Red Cross.

In addition, members of the Air National Guard's 118th Aero Medical Squadron deployed Saturday to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas to assist in the evacuation of a hospital in Beaumont, while the 45th Civil Support Team (WMD) is staging in Mississippi for deployment to Louisiana. The 45th CST will assist and support local and state authorities by providing communication assets, identifying agents and substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advise on response measures, and assist with requests for additional military support. Six (6) OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters and six (6) UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from the 1/230th Air Cavalry Squadron, Tennessee Army National Guard, are preparing to deploy to Louisiana to assist in search and rescue, and/or recovery operations.

More than 325 Tennessee Army and Air National Guard members are currently involved in preparation for Gustav's arrival, with more than 300 on standby for future operations.

For more information, please contact the Joint Forces Public Affairs Office at 615-313-0662.

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PO BOX 41502
NASHVILLE, TN 37204
615.313.3001

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

Photo 3863: Specialist Steven Toth, of Headquarters, 1/230th Air Cavalry Squadron, Tennessee Army National Guard, assists evacuees from New Orleans being transported to shelters in Middle Tennessee.

Photo 3854: Airmen from the 118th Airlift Wing, Tennessee Air National Guard, assist some of the first organized evacuees to arrive in Nashville ahead of Hurricane Gustav.

Photo 3851: The first organized evacuees from New Orleans arrive at the Tennessee Air National Guard base in Nashville. Evacuees left the "Big Easy" ahead of Hurricane Gustav.

Photo 3865: Specialist Cory Cothron, of Headquarters, Regimental Troops Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Tennessee Army National Guard assists one of the first New Orleans organized evacuees to arrive in Nashville.

Photo 3858: The first organized evacuees to arrive in Nashville from New Orleans meet with Emergency Response personnel at the Tennessee Air National Guard base at Berry Field. Currently, more than 3,500 evacuees have arrived at Tennessee Air National Guard bases in Nashville, Knoxville and Memphis

All Tennessee Army and Air National Guard press releases can be found at
<http://www.tnmilitary.org/PressReleases.htm>