



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY

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TENNESSEE GUARD HEADS FOR GULF COAST

NASHVILLE - More than 600 Soldiers and Airmen from the Tennessee National Guard are staged or preparing to deploy to the Gulf Coast to offer support after Hurricane Gustav.

Units currently deployed include:

118th Aero medical Evacuation Squadron, Tennessee Air National Guard, Nashville, deployed to Lackland AFB, Texas for assistance in evacuating hospitals in Beaumont.

45th Civil Support Team, Smyrna, staged in Vicksburg, MS to support the Louisiana National Guard.

Six (6) OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters and crews from 1/230th Air Cavalry Squadron, Smyrna, staged in Meridian, MS to conduct security and reconnaissance missions.

Six (6) UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and crews from 1/230th Air Cavalry Squadron, Smyrna, staged in Meridian, MS to conduct security and reconnaissance missions.

228th Combat Communications Squadron, Tennessee Air National Guard, Knoxville, deployed to Camp Beauregard, LA to provide a satellite communications hub in support of the Louisiana National Guard.

230th Signal Company, Tennessee Army National Guard, Nashville, to Alexandria, LA to provide Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) in support of the Louisiana National Guard.

On stand-by at Camp Shelby, MS, five-hundred soldiers from the Tennessee Army National Guard's 2/278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, headquartered in Cookeville are prepared to deploy southward if needed.

In addition, more than 350 Soldiers and Airmen have been on duty within the state providing command and control of the above listed units and assisting with the more than 4,000 organized evacuees within the state.

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

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PHOTO CAPTION # 3890: Lt. Col. Ben Welch, Tennessee Air National Guard Intelligence Officer, explains a weather overview to Col. Terry Ethridge, Tennessee Army National Guard Chief of Staff at the National Guard Joint Operations Center in Smyrna. The Joint Operations Center began operations on Saturday to control the Tennessee National Guard response to Hurricane Gustav.

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