

VIGILANT GUARD



What is “Vigilant Guard”?

A three-day, South Carolina National Guard-hosted exercise that will test the National Guard as the **first military responder** in support of the governor and the state emergency management agency. “Vigilant Guard” reinforces that all incidents are local. The National Guard Bureau exercise will demonstrate the capabilities of the South Carolina National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, the Joint Task Force-South Carolina, and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) – the process where Governors reach out to other governors for more assistance. Specific National Guard homeland defense capabilities will include the National Guard Reaction Forces (NGRF), Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams (CST) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Enhanced Response Package (CERFP) teams.

What is the exercise scenario?

On April 20 at approximately 1 p.m. a 7.3-scale earthquake will register on a notional fault in South Carolina. The earthquake will be centered in the vicinity of Beaufort County. The incident will prompt the deployment of National Guard personnel from South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, Georgia and Virginia, and the National Guard Bureau.

Who will participate?

More than 2,000 National Guard personnel from South Carolina and surrounding states will respond in support of relief operations in Beaufort County – all under the command and control of the Governor of South Carolina through EMAC. These National Guard forces will operate and train alongside other participants including Beaufort County and state agencies, the Department of Homeland Security, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IV.



Learn more: <http://www.ngb.army.mil>
For more information contact NGB Public Affairs
(Media Desk) 703-607-2584

South Carolina National Guard Response

Exercise: April 21-23, 2008

Earthquake incident in Beaufort County resulting in:

- Casualties
- Infrastructure damage
- Evacuations/displaced persons

Participants:

- South Carolina National Guard
- North Carolina National Guard
- Florida National Guard
- Georgia National Guard
- Virginia National Guard

Coordinating organizations:

- Beaufort County, and local municipalities
- State agencies
- National Guard Bureau
- U.S. Northern Command
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Helpful Terms:

Civil Support Team (CST):

Assesses hazards, advises civil authorities, and facilitates military support during emergencies and incidents of mass destruction.

Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP)

Responding to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosives incidents, the CERFP provides security, decontamination, medical support, and casualty search and extraction.

National Guard Reaction Force (NGRF)

As the critical first line of defense in counter-terrorism, the NGRF supports civil authorities, provides site security and controls civil disturbances. It also protects critical DoD infrastructure.