



# MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
3 APRIL 2008  
VG08-01

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## TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD HOSTS MULTI-STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISE

"Vigilant Guard 08" is a Tennessee National Guard-hosted exercise designed to test the National Guard as the first military responder in support of the governor and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, in the event of a catastrophic emergency within the state. The exercise will be in response to a simulated 7.6 Richter magnitude scale earthquake along the New Madrid fault line near Memphis.

"Vigilant Guard 08" reinforces that all emergency incidents are locally controlled and the National Guard is a "force multiplier" for local and state first responders. The exercise will demonstrate the capabilities of the Tennessee National Guard Joint Force Headquarters, the Joint Task Force-Tennessee, and the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency's ability to assist local responders under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). EMAC is the process where Governors reach out to other governors for additional assistance in emergency situations. More than 1,700 National Guard personnel from Tennessee, Illinois, Kentucky and Missouri will take part in the exercise.

The 45<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team (CST) from Tennessee will be joined by CST's from Illinois, Kentucky and Illinois. Each CST is comprised of 22 full-time Army and Air National Guard personnel. The fully self-contained CST's are equipped with a variety of assets including satellite communications capability and an Analytical Laboratory System vehicle containing a full suite of analysis equipment to support the identification of the hazard. The CST normally deploys using its assigned vehicles, but can be airlifted, if required.

Tennessee National Guard units taking part in the exercise include the 30<sup>th</sup> Troop Command, headquartered in Tullahoma; Nashville's 118<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing; the 230<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade headquartered in Chattanooga and Memphis; Knoxville's 134<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, 228<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron and 278<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment; Memphis' 134<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing; and the 194<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade, headquartered in Jackson. The Joint Operations Center which controls all National Guard assets during an event will locate at the Volunteer Training Center in Smyrna.

Another major player is the Illinois National Guard Chemical, Biological, Radiological/Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) - Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP), whose mission is to provide immediate response capability to search an incident site, including damaged buildings; rescue any casualties, decontaminate them, and perform medical triage and initial treatment to stabilize them for transport to a medical facility to include extracting victims trapped in the rubble.

The field portion of the exercise will take place on April 19-23, 2008 at the Naval Support Activity (NAVSUPACT) Mid-South located in Millington, Tennessee, just north of Memphis.

For more information concerning Vigilant Guard 08, contact the Tennessee National Guard Joint Public Affairs Office at 615-313-0633 or go to <http://www.tnmilitary.org/VG08/VG08HOME.htm>.

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