

## MEDIA RELEASE



**Governor Bob Taft**

### **OHIO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO HELP IN HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORT** *Ohio Prepares to Provide Housing for Evacuees; Ohio Task Force One Returns Home*

COLUMBUS (September 5, 2005) – Governor Bob Taft today announced that 164 law enforcement officers from 38 agencies across Ohio (police departments and sheriff’s offices) will play a role in the hurricane response and relief effort. At the same time, Ohio is preparing to provide temporary housing for approximately 1,000 evacuees who are expected to arrive in Ohio later this week.

“Ohio is playing an important role in the hurricane relief effort,” Taft said. “I commend our law enforcement officers for the tremendous service that they will provide to their fellow officers and the people of the Gulf Coast region. They are among thousands of Ohioans who are doing their part to help the hurricane victims and Ohio will continue to stand by and be ready to help in any way that we can.”

Sixty-six officers have already left Ohio for Louisiana or Mississippi to provide support to local law enforcement. Another 98 officers are expected to leave sometime this week. Additional law enforcement and fire officials are on call and prepared to be deployed to the region should the need arrive in the coming weeks and months.

#### Agencies deployed or scheduled for Louisiana:

Akron PD	Mason PD
Carlisle PD	Mercer Co. SO
Clearcreek Twp. PD	Miami Twp. PD
Dublin PD	Pioneer PD
Enon PD	Portsmouth PD
Evandale PD	Reynoldsburg PD
Fairlawn PD	Springboro PD
Forest Park PD	Summit Co. SO
Franklin PD	Univ. of Dayton PD
German Twp. PD	Warren Co. SO
Lebanon PD	Whitehall PD
London PD	Wyandot Co. SO

#### Agencies deployed or scheduled for Mississippi:

Ashland Co. SO	Wayne Co. SO
Butler Co. SO	Wooster PD
Darke Co. SO	
Doylestown PD	
Eaton PD	
Greene Co. SO	
Guernsey Co. SO	
Miami Co. SO	
Muskingum Co. SO	
Preble Co. SO	
Rittman PD	
Union Co. SO	

Other efforts underway involving Ohio’s role in the response effort include:

- Ohio is preparing to provide temporary housing for approximately 1,000 evacuees who are expected to arrive in Ohio later in the week. The Ohio Emergency Management Agency is working with numerous state and volunteer agencies to coordinate this effort. More information will be provided as it becomes available.
- Ohio Task Force One, 34 members and two canines, has completed its mission and returned to Dayton today.
- Fifty firefighters from the Cincinnati Fire Department are expected to leave for Hattiesburg in Mississippi tomorrow.
- Twenty-four law enforcement officers from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources are in New Orleans providing law enforcement assistance on the water and helping in the search and recovery mission. They are expected to be there for two weeks.
- The Ohio National Guard has deployed approximately 1,300 personnel to the region to help provide security and assist in the clean-up effort.
- Disaster Medical Assistance Teams from Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown are in Mississippi to support medical needs. These teams are made up of doctors, nurses and other health care professionals.
- A Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team from Wood County left on August 28 for the Gulf Coast to provide support.

###

**Contact: Mark Rickel, Governor’s Office, 614-507-8620; or Susan Raber, Public Safety, 614-403-0302.**