FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  July 29, 2019
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Vigilant Guard training exercise to be discussed at Aug. 1 news conference

WHAT: The Ohio National Guard, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, and Ohio Department of Public Safety will hold a news conference to discuss Vigilant Guard 2019 (VG19), a national-level exercise scheduled to take place from Aug. 5 to 8 at multiple sites across the state.

WHEN: Thursday, Aug. 1, 2019, 10 a.m.

WHERE: Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Atrium, 1970 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43223

BACKGROUND: On Aug. 5-8, the Ohio National Guard and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency are hosting VG19, an exercise cosponsored by U.S. Northern Command and National Guard Bureau. It will test the state’s disaster and emergency response capabilities with a simulated cyberattack event that subsequently causes utility failures and disruptions. Emergency response to hazardous material accidents, civil disturbances, and radiological incidents will also be tested.

Exercise activities will take place in Athens, Clark, Columbiana, Franklin, Greene, Guernsey, Hamilton, Knox, Licking, Portage, and Washington counties.

The public may notice a heavier than usual presence of military personnel, aircraft and equipment, first responders, and emergency vehicles. VG19 will also have civilian volunteers serving as mock accident victims. Emergency responders will exercise search and rescue, medical trauma treatment, and first aid application.

For additional information on emergency preparedness, visit: www.ema.ohio.gov, www.ready.ohio.gov

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EDITOR’S NOTE: Vigilant Guard stories and videos are available at: https://ong.ohio.gov/stories/2019/jul/20190725-ohvg.html