

**Ohio National Guard Holds Memorial Service Dedication**  
**Governor Strickland Signs Bill Establishing Ohio Department of Veterans Services**  
*(From Ohio Adjutant General's Department and Governor's press releases, dated May 22 and 23, 2008)*

The Ohio National Guard held a monument dedication to the service of its members throughout its history, last Friday, May 23 at the Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler Armory in Columbus. Governor Ted Strickland, commander-in-chief of the Ohio National Guard; Maj. Gen. Greg Wayt, the Adjutant General of Ohio; and Henry Guzmán, director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, hosted the event.



*Beightler Armory, Columbus - Governor Ted Strickland signs Senate Bill 289, legislation that establishes the Ohio Department of Veterans Services. (Ohio EMA photo)*

All three honored the families of the eleven Ohio National Guardmembers who were killed during the Iraqi Freedom/Global War on Terror by presenting them with a Gold Star Family license plate. This new specialty plate became available on April 25, and honors all military members who died while serving in a combat zone.

After a wreath was placed at the Beightler Armory Memorial, Gov. Strickland Signed Senate Bill 289, legislation that establishes the Ohio Department of Veterans Services and ensures employment rights to those serving in the uniformed services.

"The Ohio Department of Veterans Services will be an advocate for Ohio's veterans in Washington, ensuring our state's veterans have greater access to federal benefits and programs," said Strickland.



The new department will assume the duties of the Governor's Office of Veterans Services, to include the Ohio Veterans' Home Agency and the Ohio War Orphans Scholarship Board. The legislation will also provide employment protection for members of the uniformed services or the Ohio organized militia who must take a leave of absence from their job to serve their country. SB 289 offers Ohio soldiers the reinstatement and reemployment rights outlined in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994.

Homeland Security Threat Level: **ELEVATED**



Significant Risk of Terrorist Attack

HIGH or Orange for Aviation Sector

## Decker to Testify before U.S. Senate Committee



Russell Decker

Allen County Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Russell Decker has been invited to testify before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on State, Local and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration on Thursday, June 5.

Decker will testify on behalf of local emergency managers and their perspective of citizen and community awareness and disaster preparedness. Also testifying at the hearing will be Dennis Schrader, director of the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency National Preparedness Doctorate.

Decker has been with the Allen County agency since 1990, serving as its director since 1998. Decker is currently the president-elect of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), the professional association that represents more than 4,300 local emergency managers across the nation.

## Family Emergency Plan

Make sure your family has a plan in case of an emergency. Copy this card, fill it out and give one to every member of your family. Make sure they know who to call and where to meet in case of an emergency. Visit [www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov).



Additional Important Phone Numbers & Information:

### Family Emergency Plan

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Out-of-Town Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood Meeting Place: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Other Important Information: \_\_\_\_\_

**DIAL 9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCIES**

## Ohio State University Campus Safety Tabletop Exercise

On May 28, Ohio EMA Field Operations, Training and Exercise staff oversaw and assisted with the conduct of a campus safety tabletop exercise at the Ohio State University (OSU). The exercise was attended by approximately 100 university, local, state, and federal representatives and primarily focused on the roles and responsibilities of the university in response to a terrorism incident on campus. The attendees indicated the exercise was a success. OSU expressed an interest in conducting additional functional and full-scale exercises in the future. This exercise was the third in a series of campus safety tabletop exercises that have been conducted across the state, with an additional exercise being planned with Wright State University for July 17. For additional information in regards to this exercise, please contact Denny Tomcik, FOT&E Branch Chief, at (614) 889-7159, e-mail: [dTomcik@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:dTomcik@dps.state.oh.us) or Darren Price, Exercise Program Manager, (614) 799-3660, e-mail: [deprice@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:deprice@dps.state.oh.us).



Class participants review the scenario during a break out session at the OSU Campus Safety tabletop exercise.

## NATIONAL TRAINING AND EXERCISE CONFERENCE

Cathy Deck, Ohio EMA state training officer, and Darren Price, Ohio EMA exercise program manager, attended the National Training and Exercise Conference in Emmitsburg, MD, May 12-16. The conference, which is now the flagship conference for DHS/FEMA and the National Preparedness Directorate, included more than 300 training and exercise representatives from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

Dennis Schrader, deputy administrator for National Preparedness, opened the conference with remarks focusing on efforts to better integrate all of FEMA's state and local training and exercise programs within the national preparedness directorate. Schrader identified EMI as FEMA's lead training and exercise organization and mentioned that there are efforts ongoing to reinvigorate EMI.

### EMA Updates

#### **Clark Jones, Director**

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Additional topics covered during the conference included: National Preparedness Directorate Update; Training and Exercise Integration Priorities; Integrating Regional and National Preparedness; the National Response Framework (NRF); NIMS Update; National Integration Center (NIC) Update; National Exercise Division Update; the 2007 Greensburg, Kansas tornado; the Virginia Tech shootings; and the Minneapolis I-35W bridge collapse; as well as numerous training and exercise specific break out sessions.

Darren Price conducted two presentations on *How to Conduct a Training and Exercise Plan Workshop (T&EPW)*, as well as a presentation entitled *Professional Development for ETO/SAA Exercise Representatives*. Price also participated in a panel discussion for the National Standard Exercise Curriculum (NSEC) and Master Exercise Practitioner Program (MEPP) Updates.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>June 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
	Canine TAC ODOT - B	BVPS Dry Run Partial Participation	SOSTF Mtg Ohio EMA			
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
			Pandemic Influenza Functional Exer. Washington CH, OH			
		Columbus/Franklin County Pandemic Influenza Functional Exercise Columbus, OH				
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
		Warning Coordination Ohio EMA				
		HazMat TAC Ohio EMA	Incident Mgmt TAC Ohio EMA	Water TAC Ohio EMA		
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
	National Lightning Safety Awareness Week					
	Senior TAC ODOT-B	BVPS Exercise Partial Participation				

Register for Ohio EMA courses by visiting <http://ema.state.oh.us/training>

TAC - Technical Advisory Committee

\* BVPS - Beaver Valley Power Station

\* SOSTF - State of Ohio Security Task Force