



NEWS FROM

VIGILANT GUARD NEW YORK 2009

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Fact Sheet

Likely the largest joint military and civilian disaster response exercise ever conducted in New York.

Nearly a year in planning and coordination

The first time in New York for this national exercise program (Only four done annually nationwide)

Vigilant Guard was developed as a result of lessons learned following the 9-11, 2001 terrorist attacks and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Vigilant Guard is

- A national exercise program sponsored by the National Guard Bureau and United States Northern Command
- Provides a training opportunity for National Guard forces for emergency response
- Build relationships between Guard and local, state, regional and federal civil partners
- Focuses against a variety of different homeland security threats, natural disasters and potential terrorist attack
- Includes National Guard troops from several states along with local, state, county and city emergency response units and agencies.
- Provides a realistic training opportunity for civilian and military officials to coordinate in order to protect lives and property

Most of the exercise will take place in the greater Buffalo area, but New York City and the Capital District will also have some involvement

More than 1300 National Guard troops participating, mostly from New York but with participation of troops from VT, MA, PA and other states

The Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station will serve as a reception, staging and sustainment base for nearly 1,000 troops throughout

The Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station will also serve as a base for simulated emergency medical support, stabilization and evacuation

The base will serve as a hub for both Army and Air National Guard emergency response aviation operations and activities

Military and civil authority emergency and joint operations centers will communicate and interact realistically to identify simulated emergency response requirements that will be translated into assistance requests for military or other government agency support

Even though much of the response will in the form of notional activities, support requests will be analyzed and processed realistically to speed support to where it would be needed

The application of the Unified Command concept as outlined in the National Incident Management System and provisions of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact will govern exercise activities

The New York National Guard's Joint Task Force 6 headquartered in the Connecticut Street Armory in Buffalo will serve as the primary forward troop command and control center

The National Guard will be employing the latest communications technologies and practices to synchronize response efforts and to provide command and control of its forces and operations

The former Spaulding Fiber Plant site in Tonawanda will be used as a simulated disaster site so that Guard emergency response and civil urban search and rescue teams can undergo realistic and effective training

A rubble pile to simulate a disaster site is being constructed so that teams can train safely and in a way that replicates the challenges posed by earthquakes

14 civil urban search and rescue teams and four special emergency response National Guard teams including Civil Support Teams and CERFPs will participate, to include teams from Ontario, Canada and New York City

A full array of local government agencies and departments in both Erie and Niagara Counties will be participating along with civilian hospitals and organizations such as the Salvation Army and others

More than 400 civil authority representatives are expected to take an active role