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## MEDIA ALERT

May 31, 2020

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### **Governor directs Guardsmen to support law enforcement** *~ National Guard Reactionary Force assists with civil unrest*

**WHO:** The Arkansas National Guard

**WHAT:** By order of the Governor, has mobilized Soldiers and Airmen to support state and local law enforcement

**WHEN:** **May 31, 2020, thru a date to be determined**

**WHERE:** **Arkansas Capitol area and various locations around the state**

**WHY:** As of TIME, approximately 100 Guard Soldiers and Airmen were activated in response to civil disturbances and unrest. The National Guard Reactionary Force consists of Soldiers from the 216<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, and Airmen from the 188<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron and the 189<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron. These Guardsmen are specifically trained and equipped to assist state and local authorities with a variety of missions to include traffic control, crowd stabilization, and upholding the rule of law.

State and local law enforcement agencies remain responsible for security. The National Guard personnel assigned to these missions are trained, equipped and prepared to assist law enforcement authorities with protecting lives and property of citizens in Arkansas. Guardsmen are an excellent response force to provide a sense of peace and calming assistance as they live and work in the communities they serve, and are there to protect their neighbor's right to protest peacefully.

The Governor has used Guard members many times during response efforts to support local and state officials in a wide range of capacities. There are currently approximately 60 Soldiers and Airmen working State Active Duty missions in support of the Arkansas Department of Health and other state and local partners in the fight against the spread of COVID-19. The situation is fluid so numbers and specific locations can change rapidly.

While conditions may change, the National Guard's ability to respond is constant. The Arkansas National Guard assumes support roles to augment civil authorities, where needed and directed by the Governor, to help in a crisis.