



**U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Illinois Civil Support Battalion**  
**Public Affairs Office**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **1<sup>st</sup> ILLINOIS DEPLPOYS TO CLARKSVILLE, TN FOR TORNADO ASSISSTANCE**

**Clarksville, Tennessee** – 1<sup>st</sup> Illinois Civil Support Battalion has deployed its first wave of personnel to Clarksville, Tennessee after several tornadoes struck December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Initially assessments by personnel from 1<sup>st</sup> Indiana, the sister unit within the Veteran Reserve Corps, identified the damage as being far more extensive than the EF3 tornado that hit Sullivan, Indiana earlier in the year. The Veteran Reserve Corps engaged in relief operations during that tornado as well.

Over the next two weeks, 1<sup>st</sup> Illinois soldiers will be conducting damage assessment, points of distribution operations, debris clearing, and any other services required by state and local emergency management agencies.

Captain Argiris is the Commander of 1<sup>st</sup> Illinois Civil Support Battalion. *“In the Veteran Reserve Corps, all members must have at least a Basic MEMS badge to participate in an ICS mission.”*

MEMS is the Military Emergency Management Badge and is earned through the State Guard Association of the United States. Individuals wearing this badge have completed a uniformed set of FEMA courses designed to provide an understanding of the Incident Command System; the national system for responding to emergencies and disasters.

The U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps is a 501(c)(3) uniformed service, much like the Civil Air Patrol or U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. They operate as a Community Emergency Response Team, an all-volunteer network of individuals specially trained in disaster response and relief.

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