

FY18 Insert for America's Army – Our Profession: One Army, Indivisible US Army National Guard Updated Mission Examples

Flood Relief April and May 2017

Midwest and western states activated their Army National Guard soldiers to assist with flood relief. Six hundred Missouri Army National Guard soldiers were called upon to conduct aerial surveys, conduct rescues, transport first responders, and haul much need sand to fill sand bags. They conducted 111 evacuations and 136 separate rescue missions. More than 700 state roads were closed due to the floodwaters.

For three weeks in April and May 2017, the Nevada Army National Guard activated its largest domestic operation in response to a natural disaster in 20 years. The 140 National Guard soldiers filled sandbags to protect homes and equipment. These soldiers built a 4-mile HESCO wall used to hold back flood water, and moved over 12,000 yards of sand.

The Arkansas National Guard's 87th Troop Command was activated to conduct five State Active Duty missions during the flood of April-May 2017. The 87th conducted traffic control points, roving patrol, refueling, evacuations, and assisted the local law enforcement agency with providing security in the affected areas.

The Iowa Army National Guard activated 400 soldiers to provide assistance and flood relief. Their mission was to establish and occupy 75 Evacuation Control Points. In addition, 11 Iowa Army National Guard liaisons were activated to work jointly with County Emergency Management Coordinators, and three Incident Awareness and Assistance Teams were activated.

In May 2017, New York Governor Cuomo called up 320 New York Army National Guard soldiers to assist in flood relief efforts along the shores of Lake Ontario. According to LTC Ken Kieliszke at the time, "there are several missions being conducted simultaneously." This included soldiers building break walls, filling sandbags, transporting sandbags to needed locations (by air and ground), and constructing Tiger Barriers. Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul told the soldiers that they were "the brawn behind the mission, and the strength that we needed at this time of need." The soldiers remained on orders until 19 June 2017.

Fighting Wildfires July – Sep 2017

In August 2017, Governor Steve Bullock of Montana deployed 222 Montana Army National Guard soldiers to assist in fighting the LoLo Peak fire and the Meyers fire. Assistance included manning checkpoints, assisting local fire and police departments, and assisting with evacuations

Also in August 2017, Governor Kate Brown of Oregon deployed 150 Oregon Army National Guard soldiers and 6 helicopters to support local police departments during the

eclipse, estimating a million visitors would converge on the state. Additionally, over 100 soldiers deployed to assist in fighting the High Cascade Complex Fire near Crater Lake.

The 2d Battalion, 258th Aviation Regiment, Arizona Army National Guard assisted in the fight against its state's wildfires by conducting water bucket operations, assisting in transporting fire fighters, conducting re-supply operations for ground based fire crews, and serving as observation platforms.

Wyoming, Colorado and California also deployed their Army National Guard aviation assets throughout their states to assist in fighting wildfires and conducting evacuations.

Hurricane Harvey August 2017

Governor Greg Abbott activated the entire Texas Army National Guard to support the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Helicopters such as UH-60 Blackhawks, UH-72 Lakota, and CH-47 Chinooks conducted rescue operations and swift-water search and rescue missions. Over 400 High-Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicles and numerous other vehicles conducted high-water rescue, search and rescue. Soldiers also conducted bridging, logistics movements, airfield openings, urban search and rescue missions, and medical purification operations. In addition, six helicopters from Utah, Nebraska, and North Carolina Army National Guard units were on station in Texas. Army National Guard units from Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and New York were also assisting Texas. The total number of Army National Guard soldiers deployed to support Hurricane Harvey relief was at least 12,000.

Hurricane Irma September 2017

Governor Rick Scott activated the entire Florida Army National Guard for Hurricane Irma, a Category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of 130 mph. The Guard had 7,000 soldiers on standby ready to answer the call before the storm made landfall. In addition to these soldiers, 1,000 high-water vehicles, 13 helicopters, 17 boats, and 700 generators were staged.

Because of the tremendous impact of the storm, Army National Guard soldiers from Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, New Jersey, Iowa and Ohio were activated and deployed to Florida to assist. The missions for these soldiers included high-water rescue, search and rescue, urban search, medical evacuations, logistics movements, swift-water rescue, and road clearing.

In addition to Florida, 5,242 Army National Guard soldiers were deployed to Puerto Rico and 596 Army National Guard soldiers were also deployed to the U.S. Virgin Islands to assist in the relief effort of Hurricane Irma for these U.S. territories.

Hurricane Maria September 2017

Following the same path of destruction as Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria sounded the alarm for the U.S. Virgin Islands Army National Guard. Two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from the Kentucky Army National Guard and four from the Tennessee Army National Guard provided medical evacuation assistance. The Virgin Islands Army National Guard activated 430 Soldiers with an additional 390 ARNG Soldiers from across the country assisting in conducting first response missions.

The New York Army National Guard activated a Joint Incident Site Communications capability team to support the Virgin Islands. The mission was to assist in communications support for first responders and other government agencies.

The Puerto Rico Army National Guard activated over 500 soldiers for assisting the first responders. Governor Kenneth Mapp signed mutual orders of understanding with Puerto Rico and New York for Military Police support.

Oklahoma National Guard soldiers rescue people from burning apartments in Ukraine

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