



New Mexico National Guard

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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New Mexico National Guard Soldiers to deploy to Puerto Rico to assist with relief efforts from the aftermath of Hurricane Maria

RIO RANCHO, N. M. - More than 115 Soldiers from the New Mexico National Guard's 111th Sustainment Brigade will deploy to Puerto Rico on Saturday, November 18, to assist Joint Task Force - Puerto Rico and FEMA for the next 30 days in their relief efforts from the aftermath left by Hurricane Maria.

The New Mexico Soldiers will support JTF – PR, working directly with FEMA to provide the command and control element to the boots on the ground. They will help manage and monitor commodity and water distribution from the ports to regional staging areas and points of distribution at the 78 municipalities on the island. They will also manage route clearing and the clearing of road debris to further establish forward sustainment capabilities to support points of distribution for medical assets and commodities.

During this past year's hurricane season that has devastated our nation, the New Mexico National Guard has answered the call in Houston, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

New Mexico National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are well trained, experienced and ready to do their jobs. They recently completed Vigilant Guard NM 2017, a major disaster training exercise. In 2005, they assisted with relief efforts of Hurricane Katrina. Here in New Mexico, they have assisted with major forest fires, winter storms and flood mitigation.

Media is invited to attend at Cutter Aviation, 2502 Clark Carr Loop SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106 at 7:15 a.m. For more information, please contact Joseph Vigil at (505) 474-1102, (505)-553-1427 (mobile), or joseph.l.vigil2.civ@mail.mil

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