



## Our National Guard family, thank you

By MAJ. GEN. GREG LUSK  
Adjutant General of the  
North Carolina National Guard

Imagine you are a National Guard service member at home with your family when the phone rings. It's your unit commander who tells you that you are ordered to state duty for disaster response and have 24 hours to arrive at your unit and deploy to the disaster area. You turn on the television to see what is happening, but your state is not in crisis mode or in a state of emergency. Its blue skies and a beautiful day in your hometown and state. You then realize you're going to North Carolina, hundreds of miles away where a major hurricane is about to slam into its coastline.

Why would a Guardsman leave his state to conduct disaster response missions elsewhere? We are a Guard Nation, a National Guard Family and when disaster strikes in our homeland we rapidly answer the call to duty no matter the location.

The Tennessee National Guard did just that for the citizens of North Carolina, and their fellow Guardsmen.

When a state finds itself in need of additional personnel and equipment to respond to a governor-declared state of emergency, such as during Hurricane Florence, the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) serves as the mechanism to share National Guard capabilities and resources. Through EMAC, North Carolina Emergency Management, on behalf of NC Governor Roy Cooper, was able to coordinate with the Tennessee Guard to gain much needed helicopter aviation support.

The Tennessee National Guard's professional teams of helicopter crews joined Soldiers and Airmen from across North Carolina and 13 other states, flying hundreds of hours and saving hundreds of lives, in a coordinated disaster response effort that brought comfort and aide to those affected by the storm. The helicopter teams also transported essential personnel and ensured much needed supplies were delivered throughout the impacted areas.

These dedicated Guardsmen selflessly



Maj. Gen. Lusk

left their families to help others in need. As I interacted with the National Guard men and women who came to North Carolina to help respond to Hurricane Florence's devastating heavy rains and winds, an overwhelming majority said that this type of mission, disaster response, was the primary reason they joined the National Guard. Being able to help fellow Americans during periods of emergency provides a Guardsman an almost incomparable sense of accomplishment.

The past two years have been incredibly eventful, here at home, for our Nation with Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria in 2017, and Hurricanes Florence and Michael this year. Throughout all of these disasters, it was our own Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard who responded first to assist local and state first responders.

As a National Guard Soldier, who joined the Guard almost 40 years ago, it is most humbling and such an honor to stand together with members of the Tennessee National Guard. On behalf of the almost 12,000 North Carolina Guard men and women, I sincerely thank you for your support during Hurricane Florence.



Pictured are from left to right: Weakley County Veterans Officer, Rick McKenzie; Veteran and Weakley County Sherriff Deputy Terry Guthrie; Weakley County Register of Deeds, April Jones; 1st Deputy Clerk, Starla Cooper and 2nd Deputy Clerk, Tina Higgs.

## Weakley County Register of Deeds Office and Weakley County Veterans Office encourages veterans to record their DD214

The Weakley County Register of Deeds Office and Weakley County Veterans Office would like to take this opportunity to recognize our Veterans and the service they have provided for our country.

We would like to take this time to encourage all veterans to record their military discharges /DD214's in the Weakley County Register of Deeds Office.

Your DD214 is the legal document necessary to file for VA benefits, which can include low-income pension, compensation, and death benefits for family.

It is also useful in answering questions children and grandchildren might have regarding service time and medals the veteran has received. Finally, in case of fire or disaster, this crucial document will be in a safe and secure place.

Please bring by an original or certified copy of your DD214 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to the Weakley County Register of Deeds Office. There is no charge to record this document. Again, thank you for your service.

