



HENRY DARGAN McMASTER
GOVERNOR

October 8, 2024

Major General R. Van McCarty
Adjutant General of South Carolina
Joint Forces Headquarters
1 National Guard Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear General McCarty:

As you are aware, on October 5, 2024, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order No. 24-214, as amended by Executive Order No. 24-215, declaring a State of Emergency for the majority of the State of Florida in connection with then-Tropical Storm Milton—which has since experienced rapid intensification and is now a Category 5 hurricane—and projecting that forecasted conditions associated with the same would constitute a major disaster for the State of Florida. In accordance with the provisions of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (“EMAC”), S.C. Code Ann. §§ 25-9-420 *et seq.*, on October 6, 2024, Governor DeSantis formally requested that the State of South Carolina assist the State of Florida by providing mutual aid in preparation for and response to the declared emergency.

Upon receipt of the aforementioned request, I conferred with you and with the Director of the Emergency Management Division (“EMD”) regarding the same and received adequate assurances that the South Carolina National Guard (“SCNG”) has the capability and capacity to render the requested mutual aid without impeding or adversely impacting the SCNG’s ongoing operations in connection with the declared emergency in the State of South Carolina. In view of the foregoing circumstances, on or about October 6, 2024, I determined that it was necessary and appropriate for SCNG personnel, resources, and equipment to respond to the aforementioned request for mutual aid and emergency assistance from the State of Florida pursuant to the terms of the EMAC. Accordingly, pursuant my authority under South Carolina law, to include article IV, section 13 and article XIII, section 3 of the South Carolina Constitution and sections 25-1-1820 and 25-1-1840 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, this letter shall memorialize and further confirm my oral authorization, order, and directive on October 6, 2024, to place specified SCNG units or personnel, or both, on State Active Duty; to issue any supplemental orders you deem necessary and appropriate; and to utilize the requisite SCNG personnel, resources, and equipment

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to fulfill the aforementioned mission in support of, and requested by, the State of Florida. Consistent with article XIII, section 3 of the South Carolina Constitution, I have concluded that the circumstances described herein present a public danger and that utilization of the State's military forces will alleviate risks to the public and will facilitate the faithful execution of South Carolina law, including the EMAC.

This authorization to use SCNG personnel and assets shall end on or before October 17, 2024, unless extended orally or in writing. SCNG personnel and equipment deployments and mission requirements shall be coordinated through EMD, in consultation with the Office of the Governor, in accordance with the terms of the EMAC. Pursuant to Proviso 100.11 of the 2024–25 Appropriations Act, for purposes of this activation, “including support provided under [the EMAC], the State Treasurer and the Comptroller General are hereby authorized and directed to pay from the general fund of the State such funds as necessary, not to exceed \$1,500,000, to cover the actual costs incurred,” and “[a]ny funds reimbursed to the [S]tate shall be deposited in the state general fund, up to the amount of funds advanced to the Office of Adjutant General for these activities.”

Thank you for your continued leadership and dedicated service to our State. Please keep me informed of your progress. Of course, if I can be of assistance regarding the foregoing or otherwise, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Yours very truly,



Henry Dargan McMaster

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