

SPECIAL ISSUE



# THE HORNET

VOL. II

NORTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD



# JOINT TASK FORCE NORTH CAROLINA RESPONDS



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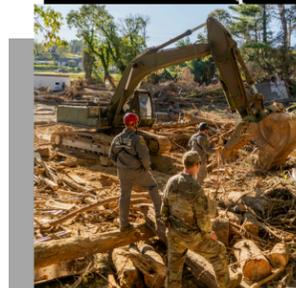


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## BREAKING BARRIERS



## ON THE COVER



North Carolina National Guard Soldiers use military equipment to help state assets clear debris in Yancy County, North Carolina, October 9, 2024 (U.S Army National Guard Photo by Cpl. Nigel Hatcher)



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# FOREWORD

As I reflect on the incredible efforts of our Soldiers, Airmen, and dedicated partners in response to Hurricane Helene, I am filled with pride and gratitude. This special issue of The Hornet highlights the resilience, professionalism, and dedication that defines the North Carolina National Guard in times of crisis.

Hurricane Helene presented immense challenges. The storm devastated communities, displaced families, and tested the limits of our resources. Yet, in the face of adversity, the men and women of the North Carolina National Guard answered the call with unwavering commitment. Joint Task Force North Carolina (JTF-NC) rapidly mobilized, working alongside state and local agencies to restore hope and provide life-saving assistance. Whether delivering critical supplies to isolated areas or coordinating complex rescue operations, every action taken was a testament to our readiness and resolve.

Our response was not just about clearing roads or delivering commodities; it was about standing shoulder-to-shoulder with our fellow citizens when they needed us most. It was about embodying our mission—to serve and support the people of North Carolina. The stories and photographs in this issue capture the human side of the operation, from the teamwork on the ground to the resilience of the communities we serve.

As we look to the future, we must continue to build on these experiences. We are constantly learning, improving, and evolving, ensuring that we are prepared for whatever challenges lie ahead. Our success in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene is a direct result of the hard work, discipline, and collaboration of every member of this team.

To our Soldiers and Airmen, thank you for your selfless service. To the families and communities impacted by the storm, we stand with you in solidarity as you rebuild. And to the citizens of North Carolina, know that your North Carolina National Guard is always ready, always there.



Brig. Gen. Wes Morrison  
Commander, Joint Task Force-NC

The North Carolina National Guard (NCNG) has been actively engaged in Hurricane Helene response efforts since its activation on September 25th, preparing for the storm's impact and immediately deploying Soldiers and Airmen to conduct lifesaving emergency evacuations by air and high-water rescues on the ground. Now operating as a large-scale joint mission, Joint Task Force North Carolina (JTF-NC) is working alongside North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) to restore and rebuild western North Carolina.

Our top priority remains the safety, security, and wellbeing of our communities. Since before Helene made landfall, NCNG personnel have been conducting 24-hour operations, and we will continue working day and night until the mission is complete. JTF-NC remains focused on distributing life-sustaining supplies to isolated areas, clearing routes, and ensuring a unified effort with state and federal agencies to support recovery operations.

# JTF-NC RESPONDS

869  
People Rescued

226  
Pets Rescued

19,522  
Tons of Ground Cargo

3,638  
Pallets of Food

468  
Air Missions

883  
People Moved

1,790  
Ground Missions

1,877  
Tons of Air Cargo

5,306  
Pallets of Water

655,404  
Gallons of Bulk Water

*Data reported November 08, 2024*



U.S. Army Spc. Joahan Hernandez, assigned to the 882nd Engineer Company, North Carolina National Guard, receives guidance from Lt. Col. Joel Pierce, a senior liaison officer with Joint Task Force North Carolina, while operating a High Mobility Engineer Excavator to clear debris removed by shovel from a critical drainage tunnel in Marshall, North Carolina, Oct. 18, 2024. Joint Task Force North Carolina has been working 24 hours a day, across a dozen counties to get North Carolinians the help they need.

U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Joe Roudabush



## Joint Task Force- North Carolina: Working at Donation Distribution Centers

2nd Lt. Mary NcKnight

NEWLAND, N.C. – Mid-morning on the day (Hurricane) Helene reached North Carolina, I stood outside my home as the rain came down. Although it may not have been the best thing to do, I wanted to see what was coming, and if need be, I wanted to be able to relocate my family, said Capt. Joshua Pate, 130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade (130th MEB), assistant operations officer.

The people of Western North Carolina expected heavy wind and rain from Helene, but nothing like what Helene left behind.

"Nothing out of the ordinary happened to my home," said Pate. "But outside that morning, I saw a tree fall in my neighbor's driveway. When the storm passed, I grabbed my chainsaw and cut the tree to clear it."

Pate expressed that his basement was prone to flooding, but he only checked his basement once he helped his neighbor.

"I went to the basement to assess the damage," said Pate. "I attempted to pump the water out with a sump pump, but we did not have power. I tried to use my generator at this time, but that also didn't work."

In true neighborly fashion, one of Pate's neighbors gave him a generator to keep his food cold, but it also allowed him to pump the water from his basement.

"We were without power for four days," said Pate. "For four days, my neighbors and I cut trees and cleared debris from the roadways for necessary passage. For four days, Maj. Sigmon checked on me and my family to ensure we were safe and asked if we needed anything."

Pate, a captain in the North Carolina National Guard (NCNG), lives in this community and proudly serves the people of this great state and nation.

"Josh and I have served together for seven to eight years," said Maj. Kevin Sigmon, 130th MEB, operations officer. "I knew he lived in the impacted areas, so I reached out to him to see if he and his family were safe and if they needed anything."

The Guard refers to their soldiers as citizen-soldiers; hence, citizens are first.

"Josh has a big heart for people and the community, so it was not surprising that by the time we were able to speak, Josh was already out in his neighborhood helping clear fallen trees from the street and from his neighbors' driveways," said Sigmon. "Within a few days, his community had their power restored and his family was able to fully support themselves as Josh reported to duty to help serve the residents in communities just a few miles down the road."

Immediately following the storm, people in Avery County, like much of Western Carolina, found themselves without power, food, and water. For this reason, Pate left his home just four days after the storm, to serve the community where he lives and works.

When Pate joined the military 15 years ago, he never imagined that he would be helping the people of his community in such an indescribable way.

Once my power was back on and I was certain my family would be okay, I didn't think twice about being activated to assist in the Helene relief efforts. It made sense for me to assist in Avery County because, as a UPS (United Parcel Service) driver, this is my route, and I could assist in navigating the area, said Pate.





North Carolina National Guardsman Staff Sgt. Jeremy Coney, assigned to the 130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, waves to a family during roadway restoration operations in Burnsville, N.C., Oct. 19th, 2024. Guardsmen used culverts to restore roadways for local residents in support of Joint Task Force-North Carolina following Tropical Storm Helene. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Hannah Tarkelly).

In true form, when Pate was placed on NCNG state active-duty orders as the Avery County liaison officer, his family followed suit, his wife, and five children, to include his daughter and son-in-law has been volunteering at a nearby emergency operation center; taking blankets, heaters and fuel to the residents of Avery County.

"Helene has restored my faith in humanity," said Pate. "How our communities have come together in such circumstances has humbled me. I know how important it is to save lives immediately after a storm, but this showed me how it's just as important to show up after the storm."

Pate is living during a time that only a few know and have experienced in their own lives. He understands the sense of urgency felt by the community because he is a member of the community.

"This morning, there was frost on the windows up here; these people need cold weather gear and shelter," said Pate. "It's the long-term effects Helene has left behind; this is where it counts for those volunteers and donations to keep coming in long after the storm; that's what's heartwarming and truly enduring to witness."



Soldiers with 449th Combat Aviation Brigade complete supply operations in Buladean, Baskerville, Fairview and Green Mountain on October 2nd, 2024. U.S. Air National Guard photo by Maj. Monica Ebert



From left, U.S. Air Force Airman Katelyn Shallcross, Airman Jesse Usrey, Airman 1st Class Kiara Howard, all assigned to the North Carolina Air National Guard's 145th Logistics Readiness Squadron, prep emergency supplies at a North Carolina Emergency management warehouse in Burlington, North Carolina, Sept. 30, 2024. The North Carolina National Guard deploys military capabilities in support of State authorities in order to protect the lives and properties of fellow Citizens. U.S. Army National Guard photo by Robert Jordan, North Carolina Department of Public Safety



U.S. Army Sgt. Garrett Tester, with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 238th Aviation Regiment, Ohio Army National Guard, assists community members with unpalletizing boxes of food and other supplies after offloading them from a CH-47 Chinook helicopter while taking part in a food and water distribution mission in western North Carolina in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, Oct. 4, 2024. National Guard units from 17 states have responded to areas impacted by the storm and have been taking part in food and water distribution, search and rescue, debris clearance and other tasks as needed. U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jon Soucy



North Carolina National Guardsman, hand out food to members of the Hmong Community in Burke County, North Carolina, Oct 12, 2024. Joint Task Force-North Carolina ensures the safety, security, and wellbeing of our western North Carolina Neighbors through commodity delivery.  
U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. Shamari Pratt



North Carolina National Guardsmen with the 113th Sustainment Brigade and the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team pose for a photo with residential owners, Rick Brite and Carla Brite, after a bridge building operation at their residence in Nebo, N.C., Oct. 9th, 2024. In support of Joint Task Force-North Carolina, Guardsmen built bridges in an effort to connect roadways for local residents following Tropical Storm Helene. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Hannah Tarkelly).

## NC Guard Restores Roadways for Local Residents after Tropical Storm Helene

Staff Sgt. Hannah Tarkelly

NEBO, N.C. - "The troops are here!" said Western North Carolina resident, Rick Brite, who watched as a group of N.C. National Guardsmen approached his property with reinforcements and heavy machinery.

Like many of their neighbors, Rick and Carla Brite woke up to discover the devastating aftermath of Tropical Storm Helene.

What was once a luscious yard filled with butterfly bushes, an assortment of flowers, and a small creek running through their front yard turned into what Carla described as "the Mississippi River."

Raging waters surged down the mountainous terrain carrying trees, rocks, and even tires through Rick and Carla's front yard.

As the waters died down, it was clear that their driveway connecting to the outside world had been washed away leaving a large rock-filled creek in its wake.

Due to the newly created obstacle, Rick expressed concern about how they would obtain supplies or receive aid due to their restricted health conditions.

Carla described the situation as "overwhelming and heartbreaking."



On the morning of Oct. 9th, 2024, A group of Tarheel Soldiers with the 236th Brigade Engineer Battalion, the 883rd Engineer Company, and the 875th Engineer Construction Company arrived with tools and a High Mobility Engineer Excavator ready to fix what Tropical Storm Helene destroyed.

"For us, it's personal," said 1st Lt. Hunter Maynor, assigned to the 236th Brigade Engineer Battalion. "These are our people, our friends, and our neighbors."

As the roads cleared, Maynor described how the State Bureau of Investigation and N.C. Guardsmen traveled door to door assessing the needs of residents in the rural areas.

"It's a beautiful thing," Rick said. "I'm just thankful y'all showed up."

The Tarheel team quickly got to work and within a couple of hours, Rick and Carla had a new bridge that crossed over the creek and connected them to the outside world.

"We're locals here," Maynor said. "So, this is us giving back to the community where we've grown up."

With a new bridge and lifted spirits, Carla said the first thing she planned on doing was visit her mother who lived nearby. Since Tropical Storm Helene made its appearance, she was unable to check on her mother due to barriers and downed powerlines.

Maynor said that the bridge built for the Brite's was one of many and the Guard was working tirelessly to assist many more local residents.

"Make way when you see the National Guard coming through," said Rick. "Because they're going to help someone."



North Carolina National Guardsmen with the 113th Sustainment Brigade and the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team conduct bridge building operations in Nebo, N.C., Oct. 9th, 2024. In support of Joint Task Force-North Carolina, Guardsmen built bridges in an effort to connect roadways for local residents following Tropical Storm Helene. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Hannah Tarkelly).



North Carolina National Guardsmen, assigned to the 113th Sustainment Brigade, knock on doors to assess community needs and provide resources in Waynesville, N.C., Oct. 14th, 2024. Joint Task Force-North Carolina deployed military capabilities in support of Tropical Storm Helene relief efforts. U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Hannah Tarkelly





**LEES-McRAE**  
**CYCLING**

Soldiers assigned to the Connecticut, Maryland and North Carolina National Guard work together to distribute food and water to local first responders in Avery County on Sept 29, 2024. National Guard Aviation crews from Connecticut, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Iowa are supporting the NC Emergency Management and the NCNG in response to citizens affected by Helene. U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Leticia Samuels



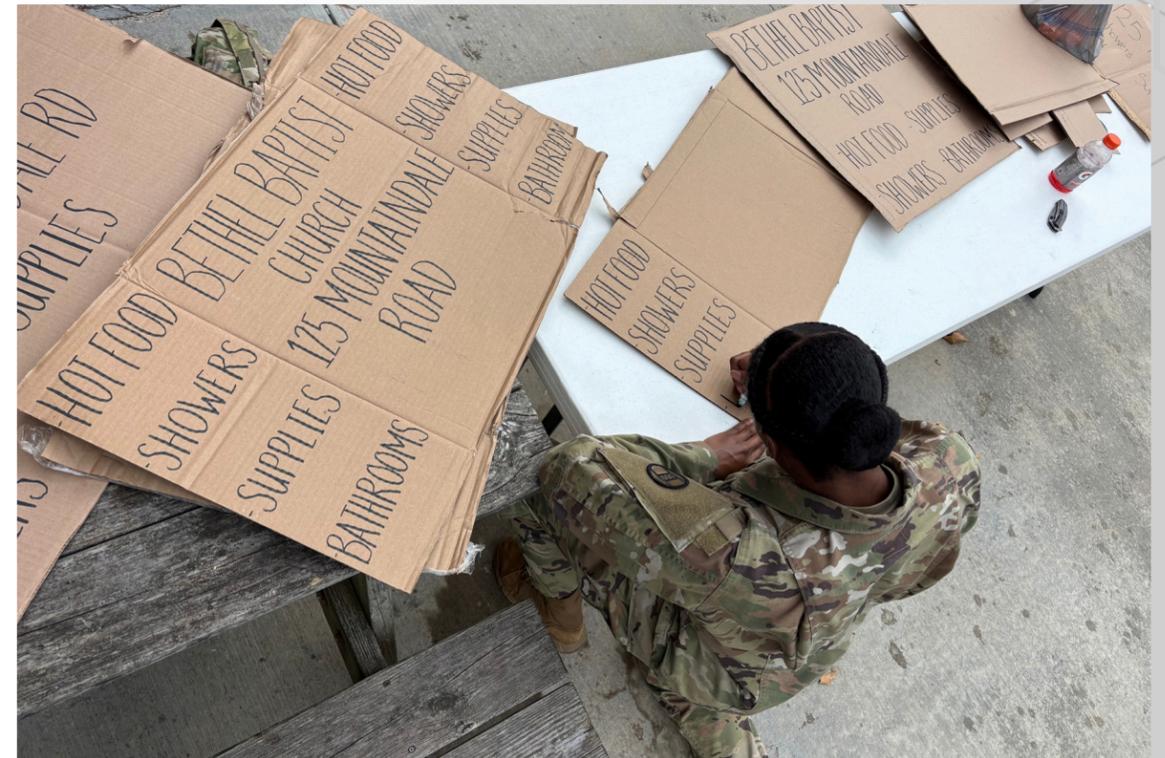
Maj. Jay Hosack, a UH-60 Blackhawk pilot assigned to the 449th Theater Aviation Brigade, verifies a drop off location with a member of a North Carolina Search and Rescue team on Sept 30, 2024. National Guard Aviation crews from, CT, MD, PA and IA are supporting the NCEM and the NCNG in response to citizens affected by Hurricane Helene. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Leticia Samuels)



Rescue of a pet from Cattail Creek Community by North Carolina Helo-Aquatic Rescue Team tech Jim McConnell Yancey County, NC on October 1st, 2024. (Photo courtesy from Staff Sgt. James Bailey)



North Carolina National Guardsman Sgt. Robert Andrews, assigned to the 882nd Engineer Company, ground guides a vehicle during debris clean-up operations at Lake Lure, N.C., Oct. 8th, 2024. Joint Task Force-North Carolina deployed military capabilities in support of Tropical Storm Helene relief efforts. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Hannah Tarkelly)



Soldiers from 1-120 Infantry Regiment, 236th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 151st Combat Engineer Company, and 881st Engineer Support Company, part of Joint Task Force - North Carolina, were instrumental in the establishment of six strategically located Community Care Centers with shower trailers, bathroom trailers, food and water supplies in Watauga County. (Courtesy asset)



North Carolina National Guardsmen with the 113th Sustainment Brigade and the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team conduct bridge building operations in Nebo, N.C., Oct. 9th, 2024. In support of Joint Task Force-North Carolina, Guardsmen built bridges in an effort to connect roadways for local residents following Tropical Storm Helene.

U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Hannah Tarkelly



North Carolina National Guardsman Sgt. 1st Class Raven Kerns, assigned to the 505th Engineer Battalion, 130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, poses for a photo in Rutherford, N.C., Oct. 8th, 2024. Joint Task Force-North Carolina deployed military capabilities in support of Tropical Storm Helene relief efforts. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Hannah Tarkelly).

## NC Guardsman Day 1 Response to Tropical Storm Helene

Staff Sgt. Hannah Tarkelly

RUTHERFORD, N.C. - In response to a natural disaster, local heroes such as North Carolina National Guardsman Sgt. 1st Class Raven Kerns made a world of difference for those who sent out an SOS.

Kerns was among a wave of Tarheel Guardsmen who on September 25th, 2024 immediately laced up their combat boots and volunteered to help their community following Tropical Storm Helene.

Shortly after the storm, Kerns found herself in her hometown of Charlotte, N.C. helping fellow neighbors escape deadly flood waters. Kerns assisted a local Charlotte Fire Department conduct rescue and evacuation operations for residents whose lives were turned upside down.

“It’s fulfilling to be out here with my boots on the ground and help these people who are in need,” Kerns said. “It’s one of the reasons why I joined the National Guard.”

Kerns, who is assigned to the 505th Engineer Battalion, 130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, then traveled to Rutherford, N.C. in support of Joint Task Force-North Carolina.

Joint Task Force-North Carolina sent military capabilities to bring relief to those affected by Tropical Storm Helene. Service members worked tirelessly to distribute supplies, conduct search and rescue operations, conduct recovery efforts, clear roadways, move debris, and fulfill local needs.

“The people here just feel this weight that devastation has happened,” Kerns said. “So when they see someone in uniform, it’s a relief because they know we’re here to help,” Kerns said.

In Rutherford, Kerns’ role resided behind the scenes where she oversaw operations and personnel from Lake Lure to Chimney Rock. She coordinated supplies, tracked mission statuses, and assessed the needs of her troops.

Kerns worked daily with Rutherford County Management, Rutherford County Sheriff’s Office, local fire departments, and various state organizations.

“They know the needs of their community when something like this happens,” Kerns said. “So, they can point us in the direction of where we’re needed the most and what kind of tasks are the most important to complete.”

Despite the long days and rough living conditions, Kerns expressed how seeing relief and smiling faces made it worthwhile.

“It’s just been an amazing outpour of gratitude from the people here in Rutherford County,” Kerns exclaimed. “Knowing that people are grateful that we’re here, makes this a lot easier being away from home.”



North Carolina National Guardsman Spc. Cornielle, assigned to the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, stocks shelves at a resource distribution point in Burnsville, N.C., Oct. 19th, 2024. The N.C. Guard partnered with local organizations to provide donated goods to the community in support of Joint Task Force-North Carolina following Tropical Storm Helene. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Hannah Tarkelly).



North Carolina National Guardsman, conduct debris clean up in Lake Lure, North Carolina. Oct 08, 2024. Joint Task Force-North Carolina ensures the safety, security, and wellbeing of our western North Carolina Neighbors through commodity delivery. U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. Shamari Pratt



Watauga County operations are in full swing to address the impacts of Helene. (Courtesy asset)



Soldiers from 151st Combat Engineer Company and 881st Engineer Support Company, part of Joint Task Force - NC, successfully complete a search and rescue mission in support of Helene relief in Western North Carolina. (Courtesy asset)



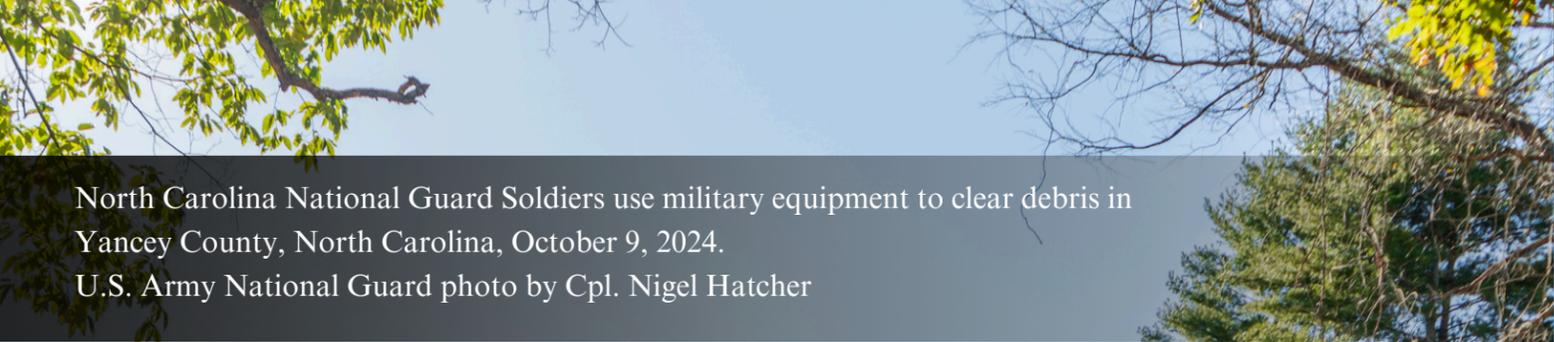
North Carolina National Guardsman Sgt. Victoria Sweetman, assigned to the 105th Engineer Battalion, cuts wood during debris clean-up operations at Lake Lure, N.C., Oct. 8th, 2024. Joint Task Force-North Carolina deployed military capabilities in support of Tropical Storm Helene relief efforts. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Hannah Tarkelly)



Soldiers with 449th Combat Aviation Brigade complete supply operations in Buladean, Baskerville, Fairview and Green Mountain on October 2nd, 2024. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Maj. Monica Ebert)



Rescue hoist of survivor from Cattail Creek Community by North Carolina Helo-Aquatic Rescue Team tech Anthony Ladd, Yancey County, NC on October 1st, 2024.  
Photo courtesy from Staff Sgt. James Bailey



North Carolina National Guard Soldiers use military equipment to clear debris in Yancey County, North Carolina, October 9, 2024.  
U.S. Army National Guard photo by Cpl. Nigel Hatcher



Soldiers from the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team and 130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade tackle rough terrain to create a temporary Emergency Medical Services path, cutting response time from over an hour to under 30 minutes.  
Photo courtesy of Justin Duncan, NC Department of Adult Correction

# NC Guard Goes Door to Door after Tropical Storm Helene

Staff Sgt. Hannah Tarkelly

WAYNESVILLE, N.C. - Tucked away in the mountainous terrain of Western North Carolina is a town called Waynesville where thousands of families endured the devastating aftermath of Tropical Storm Helene.

With blocked roadways and debilitating circumstances, some locals found it difficult to travel to distribution sites and obtain essential items.

In response, the N.C. National Guard partnered with Haywood County Health and Human Services to carry out the Post Event Canvassing Operation project.

This large-scale project was designed to bring resources straight to residents' front doors.

Guardsmen, assigned to the 113th Sustainment Brigade, loaded up a plethora of supplies in a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle and drove out to the local neighborhoods of Waynesville.



North Carolina National Guardsmen, assigned to the 113th Sustainment Brigade, knock on doors to assess community needs and provide resources in Waynesville, N.C., Oct. 14th, 2024. Joint Task Force-North Carolina deployed military capabilities in support of Tropical Storm Helene relief efforts. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Hannah Tarkelly).



North Carolina National Guardsman Spc. Jessica Bowling, assigned to the 1452nd Combat HET Transportation Company, poses for a photo during community outreach in Waynesville, N.C., Oct. 14th, 2024. North Carolina National Guardsmen knocked on doors to assess community needs and provide resources in support of Joint Task Force-North Carolina following Tropical Storm Helene. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Hannah Tarkelly).



These Tarheel heroes went house to house knocking on doors to provide resources, offer supplies, and identify needs.

“We’re utilizing the Army Core values by ensuring no one is left behind,” said Sgt. Jason Castaneda with the 196th Signal Company.

These values included ALL members of the family. Therefore, piles of dog food were given away to ensure even our four-legged friends had support.

The PECO project showcased how local agencies and military capabilities were able to join forces amid a large-scale event that required a large-scale response.

“The more we work together, the better our response is and the better our community recovers,” said Tori Morgensai, the PECO Project Group Coordinator.



Soldiers with 449th Combat Aviation Brigade complete supply operations in Buladean, Baskerville, Fairview and Green Mountain on October 2nd, 2024.  
U.S. Air National Guard photo by Maj. Monica Ebert



U.S. Air Force Airmen and U.S. Army Soldiers deliver 80,000 pounds of food and water to a logistics hub in Asheville, North Carolina. The pallets will be broken down by Soldiers and Airmen from the 113th Sustainment Brigade, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, 145th Airlift Wing, 449th Combat Aviation Brigade, 130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade delivered with CH-47 Chinooks by the 82nd Airborne Division. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. Shamari Pratt)



Joint Task Force NC continues to deliver essentials to those hardest hit by Tropical Storm Helene. Here's a glimpse from Mitchell County. (Courtesy asset)



North Carolina National Guard soldiers reinforce a temporary dirt roadway with recovered river rocks in Yancey County North Carolina, Oct. 10, 2024. Joint Task Force North Carolina has been working 24 hours a day, across a dozen counties to get North Carolinians the help they need. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Joe Roudabush)



Soldiers from I-120th Infantry Regiment and 130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade help with a Swiftwater rescue in Polk county. (Courtesy photo by Sgt. Jordan Hayden)



Connecticut National Guard's UH-60 Blackhawk successfully transports a generator to Pensacola, N.C. on October 4th, 2024.  
U.S. Army National Guard photo by Cpl. Nigel Hatcher



## Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers

Staff Sgt. Denné Allen

BLACK MOUNTAIN, N.C.- Staff Sgt. Luis Lopez, a Soldier with FSC, 505th Engineer Battalion, 130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, celebrates his Puerto Rican heritage any time he can. He never thought his response to Tropical Storm Helene would allow him to use his bilingual talents.

Staff Sgt. Lopez arrived at a Point of Distribution Site in Black Mountain on October 10, 2024. The POD is in the parking lot of an Ingles grocery store and operates using a drive thru system. Cars drive through lanes lined with canned food, water, and hygiene products. If the families require items not already out, soldiers and volunteers go to the garden center that has been turned into a supply warehouse.

Lopez realized there was a population being underserved. Along with four other soldiers, some from the 101st Airborne Division, Lopez began translating for families that only spoke Spanish. Some expressed apprehension at first but were excited when they could interact with Soldiers with a shared commonality.

“They’re going through it but they are afraid of the language barrier”, Lopez said. “But once we jump on the game and say we speak Spanish, they open their hearts and tell us what they really need.”

Up until that point, many of these families had only been able to receive water as they were unable to communicate their needs. Once Lopez and his fellow Soldiers jumped into action, the families were able to receive blankets, socks, hygiene kits, gloves, even the hispanic food items they were accustomed to.

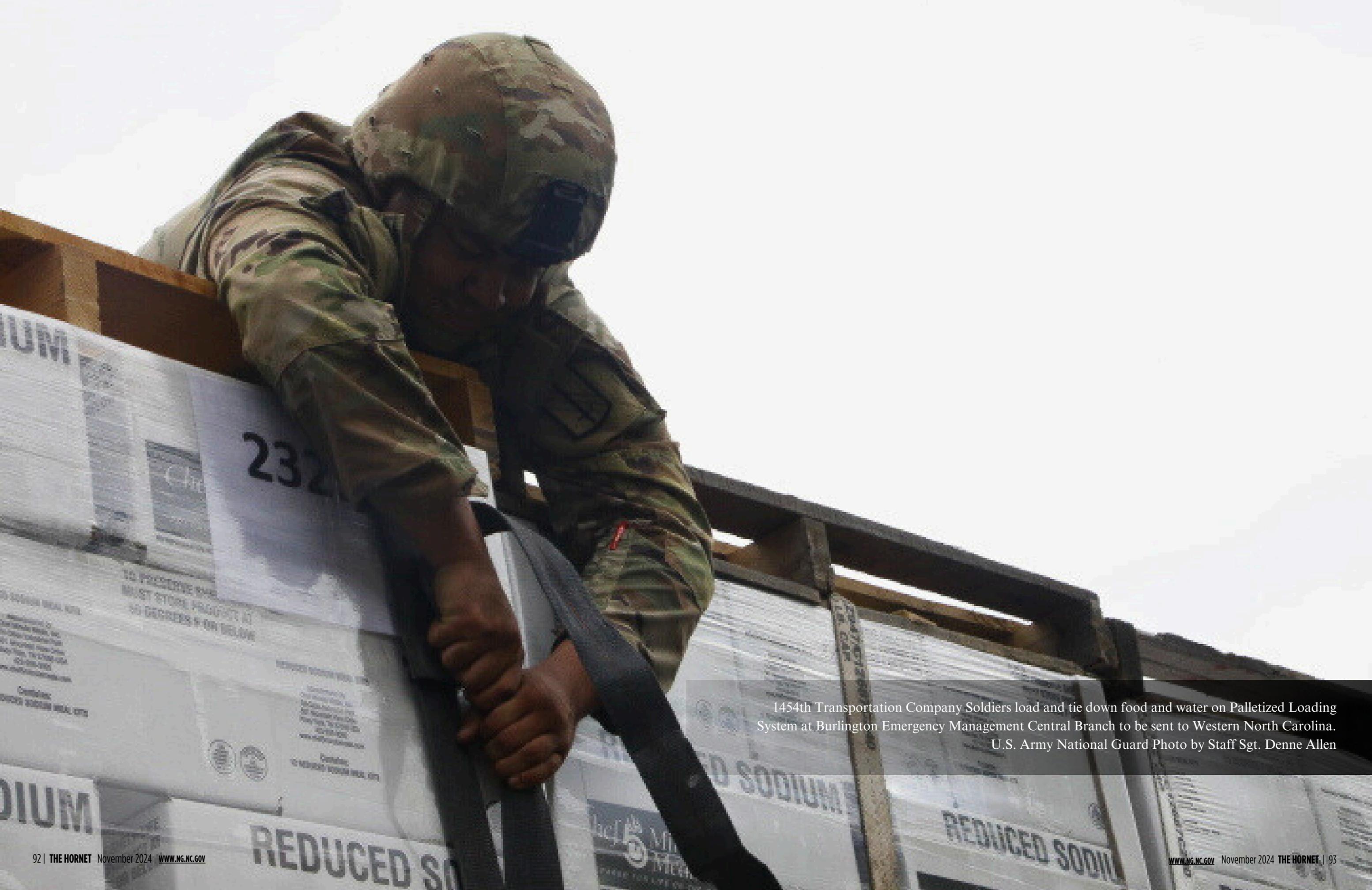
“Once they come, I make a list”, Lopez said. And the other soldiers help us by grabbing everything on the lists for the families.”

Lopez is no stranger to serving his community. He has been in the National Guard for 18 years and served 21 years as a police officer.

Lopez appreciates the collaboration between the North Carolina National Guard and the 101st Airborne Division and is proud to be a resource to western North Carolina, “Once we say I swear to serve, we're here to serve”, Lopez exclaimed. “ If something needs to be done, it will be done.”



U.S. Army Pfc. Crystal Rosario, a Human Resource Specialist with Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 252nd Armored Regiment, fills a cart with food, water, and blankets to give to a family in Black Mountain, North Carolina, Oct. 16, 2024. Joint Task Force-North Carolina ensures the safety, security, and wellbeing of western North Carolina through community outreach. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Denne Allen)



1454th Transportation Company Soldiers load and tie down food and water on Palletized Loading System at Burlington Emergency Management Central Branch to be sent to Western North Carolina.  
U.S. Army National Guard Photo by Staff Sgt. Denne Allen



Spc. Jarrett Barnes, a UH-60 Helicopter Repairer assigned to Charlie Company, 1-126th Aviation Regiment, loads cases of water onto a UH-60 Blackhawk in Salisbury NC on Oct. 1, 2024. Food Lion donated 57 pallets of water to help support the response of citizens affected by Hurricane Helene. National Guard Aviation crews from Connecticut, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Iowa are supporting the NC Emergency Management and the NC National Guard in response to citizens affected by Tropical Storm Helene. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Leticia Samuels)



North Carolina National Guardsmen, assigned to the 130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, used culverts to restore roadways for local residents in Burnsville, N.C., Oct. 19th, 2024. Joint Task Force-North Carolina deployed military capabilities in support of Tropical Storm Helene relief efforts. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Hannah Tarkelly)



U.S. Army soldiers with the 130th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and 113th Sustainment Brigade deliver meals and water to the Western Carolina Rescue Ministries in Asheville, North Carolina, Oct. 3, 2024. The North Carolina National Guard deploys military capabilities in support of State authorities in order to protect the lives and properties of fellow Citizens. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Denne Allen)



U.S. Army Soldiers with the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team and 113th Sustainment Brigade drop off supplies to a small community in Alexander, North Carolina, Oct. 15, 2024. Joint Task Force-North Carolina ensures the safety, security, and wellbeing of our western North Carolina Neighbors through community outreach. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Denne Allen)



Soldiers from 1454th Transportation Company and 1-120th Infantry Regiment load food, water, and supplies to conduct mass feeding operations in the greater Asheville area.  
U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Aimee Trinidad



Soldiers with 449th Combat Aviation Brigade complete supply operations in Buladean, Baskerville, Fairview and Green Mountain on October 2nd, 2024.  
U.S. Air National Guard photo by Maj. Monica Ebert



Joint Task Force - NC successfully completed a supply load drop at West Court Baptist Church in Marion, NC, in support of Helene relief efforts. We remain committed to assisting our community in its time of need.  
U.S. Army National Guard photo by Cpl. Nigel Hatcher



Joint Task Force - NC successfully completed a supply load drop at West Court Baptist Church in Marion, NC, in support of Helene relief efforts. We remain committed to assisting our community in its time of need.  
U.S. Army National Guard photo by Cpl. Nigel Hatcher

