

Maryland Military Department Digest



STORM RELIEF

“They give us a thumbs-up, and they’re pretty amazed at how well the Humvee handles through the snow and ice.”

-Sgt. Troy K. Mitchell
Joint Force Headquarters

Martin O'Malley
Governor



Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF MARYLAND

As Maryland's Adjutant General and the senior leader of the Maryland National Guard, I would like to express my thanks to the local and state officials, first responders and the citizens of Maryland for their outpouring of appreciation for the Maryland National Guard during the recent record-breaking back-to-back snowstorms.

Approximately 700 men and women of the Maryland Army and Air National Guard were activated for state active duty by Governor O'Malley and deployed to assist state and local authorities by rescuing stranded motorists, transporting firemen and equipment to fight fires, transferring severely injured and sick patients to medical treatment facilities, and transporting first responder personnel and critical supplies, such as road salt, to emergency sites around the state. One of our teams even assisted in the delivery of a baby.

These Citizen Soldiers have stepped up to answer the call from our state and our nation since 1634. They have fought in our wars and responded to emergencies and disasters across our country. These men and women are well trained and well motivated to assist their neighbors in times of distress. They are your fathers and mothers; sons and daughters; brothers and sisters. They represent the best of Maryland, and I am proud of their accomplishments during this crisis as they left their own homes and families to serve their neighbors and fellow citizens.

Time after time, we have heard the stories from every corner of our state of the tremendous efforts of the men and women of the Maryland National Guard. The expressions of gratitude by state and local officials, first responders and Marylanders have made the whole effort worthwhile. Thanks for your support.

Respectfully,

JAMES A. ADKINS
Brigadier General, MDARNG
The Adjutant General



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GUARD HELPS STATE 'DIG OUT' . . .

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ON GUARD FOR MAJOR SNOW



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O'MALLEY THANKS GUARD

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COVER PHOTO

Sgt. Troy K. Mitchell of Joint Force Headquarters, works to free a Baltimore City Police vehicle from where it was stuck in the snow Sunday. (Photo by Sgt. Jennifer Sardam, 29th MPAD)



STRANDED MOTORIST RESCUED . . .

A team of Maryland National Guardmembers rescued a stranded motorist Feb. 6 who had been stuck in his car for hours. **8**

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5-TON FIREFIGHTER



A five-ton truck from the Maryland National Guard's 1229th Transportation Company, allowed firefighters to combat a two-alarm house fire Wednesday, Feb. 10. **11**



Governor:
Martin O'Malley

Adjutant General:
Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins

Editor & Layout Designer:
SpC. Thaddeus Harrington

Contributors:
Governor's Press Office * 2nd Lt. Kristofer Baumgartner * Sgt. Jennifer Sardam * Jeremy Scheinker * Jim McCafferty * Baltimore Firefighters * Facebook Fans

Mail: Public Affairs Office
Fifth Regiment Armory
29th Division St.
Baltimore, MD 21201
paomd@md.ngb.army.mil
410.576.6179

www.md.ngb.army.mil
www.Facebook.com/MDGUARD
www.Twitter.com/MDNG
www.Flickr.com/photos/mdng

Maryland National Guard Helps State 'Dig Out'



**By Maryland National Guard
Public Affairs**

The weekend before Christmas, a massive snowstorm blew through the Northeast bringing Guardmembers from seven states out in force to help their fellow citizens during the largest snowfall so far this winter.

In Maryland, more than 140 Guardmembers were on duty over the weekend, but that number dropped to 19 by Monday. About 46 Humvees and five ambulances were used throughout the state. A state of emergency was declared in the state.

"The majority of the requests we received during the snowstorm were to support local and state law enforcement agencies," said Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins, adjutant general of Maryland. "Use of our Humvees ensured that first responders were able to get where they needed to go to provide critical services to the citizens of

Maryland."

The snowstorm was the latest illustration of the Maryland National Guard's unique state role in support of emergency first responders in addition to its federal war-fighting role. In recent years, The Maryland Guard

has been called on to support the emergency response and relief efforts for Hurricanes including Isabel, Katrina, Rita and Gustav, in addition to the President's Day Snowstorm, the LaPlata Tornado and other emergencies.



Maryland Military

The Maryland Guard on Guard for Major Snowstorm



**By Sgt. Jennifer Sardam, 29th Mobile
Public Affairs Detachment.**

Following the Feb. 5 declared state of emergency by Governor Martin O'Malley, approximately 200 Maryland National Guardmembers along with 60 vehicles became available to support local first responders throughout the state of Maryland.

"Even though we have approximately 500 people deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, we still have plenty of forces back here to respond," said Brig. Gen. James A. Adkins, the adjutant general of Maryland. "We can up that number if needed."

As transportation becomes more of a challenge throughout this snowstorm, these Guardmembers will assist civil authorities, such as police

and medical personnel, to carry out their duties.

Maryland has 34 armories across the state that will also be used to support ongoing operations.

"I just want to thank the families of those that wear the uniform," said Adkins. "They're not able to be home to shovel the sidewalks. They're going to be out here supporting the citizens of Maryland under the direction of the governor."



Department Digest



THANK YOU

General Adkins,

Last week (first week of February) during the storm, I finally had the opportunity to leave MEMA and go home for the evening to spend time with my family.

Wednesday evening I fought my way through the blowing snow and was within one mile of my home when I was blocked by a large snow drift across the road.

When I tried to reverse course and find a different way I became stuck on the icy road, unable to move. I contacted the Baltimore County Fire Department, who had a Humvee assigned to the Pikesville Fire Station, to see if they could pull me out.

The Humvee crew, Spc. Nicholas Rosado and Spc. Scott Kreiner, manning unit Charlie 175 from the 58th Brigade Combat Team, performed in an outstanding manner. The soldiers braved the blowing snow and 4-5 foot drifts to help find a solution to my predicament.

They worked eagerly and tirelessly to help me get free and made sure I made it home safely. Being at MEMA for the last two weeks, it was difficult to understand what the troops in the field were facing as we sat in the warm SEOC. But now I can truly appreciate what the soldiers did and how much they helped their communities.

Thank you for all The Guard does for the State of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Jeremy A. Scheinker

**Critical Infrastructure
Program Administrator**

**Maryland Emergency
Management Agency**

**Maryland Coordination
Analysis Center**

www.md.ngb.army.mil | 5



O'Malley Thanks Road Crews, Emergency Responders, National Guard for Storm Response

By Governor's Press Office

ANNAPOLIS, MD (February 11, 2010) –Governor Martin O'Malley today praised state and local road crews, emergency responders and members of the Maryland National Guard for their round-the-clock efforts during the two historic snow storms during this past week. The two storms combined dumped as much as 50 inches of snow in some parts of the state.

"For nearly one solid week, thousands of men and women in Maryland stepped forward to help their fellow citizens get through this historic weather event," said Governor O'Malley. "Road crews worked with very little sleep to continuously plow our roads in conditions they had never seen before. Emergency responders and the Maryland National Guard braved deep snow and blizzard conditions to rescue stranded motorists, deliver supplies and get those in need of medical care to area hospitals. No matter how bad things got, they never gave up. These are the true heroes of the 'Blizzard of 2010' and Maryland is very proud of each and every one of them."

Recovery from the double dose of winter weather picked up momentum once the snow stopped this evening. State road crews will continue to plow the interstates and major highways with the goal of reclaiming lanes for traffic as soon as possible. However, it will take several days to get down to bare pavement on roads throughout the state. It could take several weeks to totally remove the piles of snow that have been plowed to the side of the road.

Local jurisdictions also will be

working on county and municipal roads and residential streets. Governments across the state face a huge challenge in removing this massive amount of snow.

"Despite the tireless work of road crews and the best efforts of local elected officials to manage snow removal efforts, citizens need to appreciate the magnitude of this storm and how challenging it will be to remove this much snow," added Governor O'Malley. "This is not your basic Maryland snowfall of five to seven inches followed by a return to bare pavement in less than 24 hours. This will take time, both at the state and local level. We appreciate the patience and understanding of our citizens as all of us work as hard and as fast as we can to recover."



The Maryland Meritorious Service Medal was presented today to 8 Soldiers who served on state active duty during this weekend's snowstorm. The actions recognized today ranged from delivering a baby to giving CPR to heart attack victims to assisting trauma patients. "Operation Snowflake" involved more than 500 members of the Maryland Army National Guard who provided support to the state of Maryland and several local jurisdictions.



Guardmembers Rescue Stranded Motorist During Snow Emergency

By 2nd Lt. Kristofer Baumgartner, Maryland National Guard Public Affairs Office

Showing the National Guard's strength and capabilities during emergencies such as the massive snowstorm currently hitting the Mid Atlantic region, a team of Maryland National Guardmembers rescued a stranded motorist Feb. 6.

The HUMVEE with Maryland National Guardmembers came upon Baltimore resident David Page's vehicle at approximately 8:00 a.m.

Page had been stuck in his car for hours, according to Lt. Col. Charles Kohler, Maryland National Guard public affairs officer. Snowplows had obviously come through multiple times and piled up snow around his car on both sides, making it almost impossible for him to get out.

"There were several vehicles which were abandoned on the roads, and we were checking them all to make sure that everybody was ok," said Kohler.

The Guardmembers gave Page food and water and transported him to a warm location where he was able to call family members to let them know he was safe.

The Maryland National Guard currently has 117 HUMVEEs on the road assisting local emergency responders as the state reacts to the largest snow-fall since the 2003.



Capt. Christian Callender of the Maryland Army National Guard, assists a motorist who was stranded in his vehicle, just outside of Baltimore on 95 South. (photo by Sgt. Jennifer Sardam, 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Maryland National Guard



Maryland National Guardmembers rescue stranded motorist during massive snow emergency


Showing the National Guard's strength and capabilities during emergencies such as the massive snowstorm currently hitting the Mid Atlantic region, a team of Maryland National Guardmembers rescued a stranded motorist this morning...

3,817 Impressions · 0.97% Feedback

February 6 at 10:06am · [Comment](#) · [Like](#) · [Share](#)

[Kris Baumgartner](#), [Jennifer Sardam](#) and 22 others like this.


 **Auburn Mellon** Atleast we were more prepared for it this time
February 6 at 10:12am · [Delete](#) · [Report](#)

 **Shekka Southern** Good job fellow soldiers!
February 6 at 1:18pm · [Delete](#) · [Report](#)

 **Kristin Ervin McGervey** yet another reason to be so proud of and grateful for our military
February 6 at 3:51pm · [Delete](#) · [Report](#)

 **Marylynn Hartmann Doff** You make us proud!! Thank you!!
February 6 at 4:05pm · [Delete](#) · [Report](#)

 **Dori Scalera Horvath** So proud!!!!!!
February 6 at 4:20pm · [Delete](#) · [Report](#)

 **Donna Gill** I want to extend a thank you fro the Gill Family in Hampstead, MD. Friday morning the 5th came out and did a beautiful funeral for my husband's father. Getting to be part of this and getting handed the folded flag meant so much to my husband. You will all be in our prayers. Thank you for honoring his father.
February 6 at 6:55pm · [Delete](#) · [Report](#)

Maryland Army National Guard assists first responders in Baltimore

By Sgt. Jennifer Sardam, 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

While many residents of Baltimore spent the first weekend in February staying indoors and out of the snow, dozens of Maryland Army National Guardmembers moved throughout the city, teaming up with first responders to keep things safe.

The Maryland National Guard assisted the community in a variety of ways, from rescuing stranded motorists and removing vehicles stuck in the snow, to quickly transporting medical, police and fire personnel in Humvees, to respond to emergency calls.

Many of these situations, such as aggravated assaults and roof collapses, can be serious and time-sensitive.

Baltimore City Police officer, Joe

Crystal, one of the officers assisted by Guardmembers, expected the weather to result in increased domestic violence.

"Domestic violence, for the city, is a very big deal and big problem," explained Crystal.

Referring to a recent domestic violence call, Crystal said he would have never gotten there without Maryland National Guardmembers. "Somebody could have ended up getting killed, or the situation could have escalated. Essentially, you stopped a bigger crime from happening."

In addition to transporting city workers to a number of critical calls, Guardmembers helped to make the roads more accessible by helping Baltimore residents whose vehicles were stuck in the snow.

"We can't tow people," said Sgt. Troy K. Mitchell, a Maryland Guardmember with the state's Joint Force Headquarters. "Even though my vehicle is strong enough and could tow vehicles out, there's a liability issue. Basically, it's been a brute strength effort and people pulling together to help."

Soldiers like Mitchell have worked around the clock since Friday to provide a presence in the community.

"We get a lot of thumbs up from the people that are on the street," said Mitchell. "They don't always see the police officer in the back, but they do understand this is a military vehicle. They give us a thumbs-up, and they're pretty amazed at how well the Hum-vee handles through the snow and ice."



Baltimore City Police officers, Justin Howard and Joe Crystal, and Sgt. Troy K. Mitchell, Maryland Army National Guard, work to free a snowbound Baltimore City Police vehicle. (Photo by Sgt. Jennifer Sardam, 29th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Soldiers 'cut a road' to injured girl

The Maryland National Guard helped a seriously injured girl get the specialized care she needed during the first weekend in February snowstorm, which pushed state emergency operations nearly to the limit.

Staff Sgt. Randy Runkles, assigned to the Maryland Army National Guard's Marksmanship Training Unit, was tasked to assist the Baltimore City Fire Department in transportation support with his Humvee ambulance when a call came in to transfer a 13-year-old girl with a broken back from Howard County General Hospital to Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore.

"They needed someone to run a critical care mission, so I set up the litter system in the 'ambo' and went with the EMT," said Runkles, who has experience transporting wounded Soldiers from overseas deployments with multiple Special Forces units.

First, however, they had to take members of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit from Johns Hopkins to Howard County in order to safely transport the girl, who was injured in a car accident on Interstate 95.

"The roads hadn't been plowed, and we had to cut a road through the snow with the Humvee to get to Hopkins because the Fire Department's ambulance couldn't make it," said Runkles.

After picking up the PICU, Runkles drove them to Howard County General Hospital, where they picked up the girl and took her about 20 miles to Johns Hopkins, where she is currently in critical, but stable condition.

As of Monday, February 8, The Maryland National Guard had approximately 120 vehicles assigned to assist state emergency responders as the state recovers from Maryland's largest-ever snowstorm.

Maryland National Guard



Maryland National Guard Soldiers 'cut a road' to injured girl

The Maryland National Guard helped a seriously injured girl get the specialized care she needed during last weekend's snowstorm, which pushed state emergency operations nearly to the limit. Staff Sgt. ...

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February 8 at 4:39pm · Comment · Like · Share

Kris Baumgartner, Isolda Reyes McClelland, Jennifer Sardam and 25 others like this.

Jennifer Sardam Awesome deal!
February 8 at 4:45pm · Delete · Report

Jen Moore Baumgartner Great job!
February 8 at 4:46pm · Delete · Report

Rick Breitenfeldt Hooah!
February 8 at 5:24pm · Delete · Report

Colleen Brendlinger Hooah
February 8 at 6:02pm · Delete · Report

Christi Godish Lead the Way!!
February 8 at 6:39pm · Delete · Report

Lura McCormick Good Job!
February 8 at 7:03pm · Delete · Report

Charlie Bury Outstanding!!
February 8 at 7:27pm · Delete · Report

Kevin Dickey Good things are happening. I can tell you our drivers are stoked. They are tired but morale is very high!
February 9 at 8:24am · Delete · Report

Ronald Pitts Go Guard go SSG Runkles!
February 9 at 2:35pm · Delete · Report

Ronald Pitts Great article!
February 9 at 3:46pm · Delete · Report

Rachel Lynne Selig-laws we are happy that we were able to go and do this call and help this child get the care she needed.
Wed at 12:15pm · Delete · Report

Rodney E. Hayes Go Rachel and the entire Team!!!
Yesterday at 4:31am · Delete · Report

Write a comment...



Maryland Military

Five-Ton Firefighters

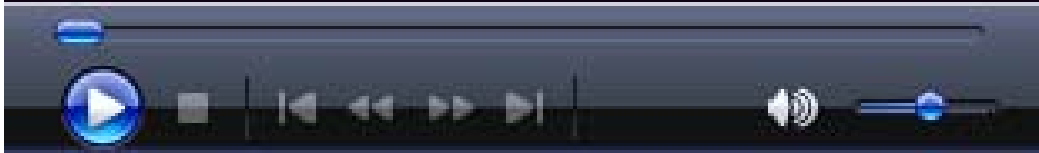


Content from <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4S-9D7WnFLo>

With as much as 40 inches of snow on the ground from two storms just a few days apart, the Baltimore City Fire Department, like all of the other departments in the region needed help just getting from point A to point B. In most cases that help came from the National Guard. Various components of the National Guard in the mid-Atlantic region became first responders.



This video is from a fire in Baltimore on Wednesday, Feb. 10. We previously had shown you a picture from this two-alarm house fire in the 4200 block of Adelle Terrace. "Support 30", a five-ton truck from the Maryland National Guard's 1229th Transportation Company, was apparently the only unit to make it to the front of the burning home. The vehicle carried hose and a ladder.



Department Digest

Baltimore Fire Department Praises Maryland Guard's Support During Epic Snowstorm

Chief Heinbuch,

Just a quick note to let you know how great the 5 ton military units are working in the heavily snow covered streets. Last night on XXXX XXXX Street, the only vehicle in front of the dwelling was a 5 ton military unit, the unit laid large diameter hose from a hydrant and provided a much quicker water supply then hand dragging hose from XXXX Road.

The unit was also carrying 2.5 inch hose that was able to be used for large attack lines and split for smaller hand lines. The unit was also carrying a 24' extension ladder that was used to assess a porch roof and assist with the removal of a victim, I truly believe that this unit has assisted with saving a life last night and will probably save more lives in the future.

I don't know whose idea it was to get these units but whoever it was I thank them.

Jim McCafferty

Baltimore City Fire Department
Shift Commander Aide
Incident Management Team Coordinator

Final Frame

