

Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Wendi Patella
609-777-2600

RELEASE: April 16, 1999

Governor Whitman Grants Benefits to State Employees Deployed to Kosovo Crisis

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed an executive order to protect the salary and benefits of state employees who serve in the military reserves and National Guard who may be deployed to the crisis in Kosovo.

The President of the United States has authorized the deployment of military forces to Kosovo and may authorize the Secretary of Defense to call up select members of the reserve and National Guard.

"Our reserves and National Guard represent the best of what our country has to offer and give us all reason to be proud," Gov. Whitman said. "Guaranteeing that they will return to secure jobs is but a small way to recognize their personal and economic sacrifices."

Under state law, state employees who are called to active duty receive full pay for 90 days, and then are entitled only to their military pay. Executive Order 95, signed today by the Governor, guarantees those employees their full pay for the duration of their assignment to active duty. The state will pay the difference between the employees' full salary and the employees' military pay.

The order also states that those employees will be ensured of full seniority and benefits upon their return, as well as state employee health benefits, life insurance, and pension coverage during their active duty service.

The Governor encouraged private industry to also support employees who may be called to active duty, and asked the Commerce and Economic Growth Commission to explore ways to support small businesses which may be impacted if employees are called to duty.

There are roughly 9,700 National Guard members in New Jersey and about 10,000 military reservists.