

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 192

WHEREAS, the men and women who live and work in our military installations are an indispensable part of our State and our Nation, defending our country through active-duty service, service in the National Guard, service in critical reserve functions, and service in essential civilian roles; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's military installations are essential components of our State's integrated economy and social fabric, contributing economic and societal benefits to communities all across the State; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's military installations contribute billions of dollars directly and indirectly to our State's economy; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the stability and growth of all New Jersey military installations is essential to preserving and enhancing the quality of life for the tens of thousands of military and civilian employees who keep our State and our Nation secure and prosperous; and

WHEREAS, on June 13, 2013, Governor Christie signed Executive Order No. 134 (2013) establishing the New Jersey Military Installation Growth and Development Task Force ("Task Force") for the purpose of taking the steps necessary and appropriate for the development of recommendations relating to additional military missions that will preserve, enhance, and strengthen the State's military installations; and

WHEREAS, on April 4, 2014, Governor Christie signed Executive Order No. 154 (2014) amending Paragraph 2 of Executive Order No. 134 (2013) in order to expand the membership of the Task Force by one member and name the Lieutenant Governor as chair; and

WHEREAS, in view of our fiscally austere times, federal officials are examining methods to potentially reduce military spending and the size of our nation's armed forces; and

WHEREAS, it is in New Jersey's best interests to undertake every effort to ensure that all New Jersey military installations remain a vibrant part of our State and their communities, and are positioned to grow and prosper; and

WHEREAS, to best preserve our State's critically important military installations and ensure their stability and growth, State policymakers must make every effort to attract new missions and economic development on and near those installations; and

WHEREAS, it is important to demonstrate New Jersey's commitment to preserving and strengthening our military installations by continuing the important work of the Task Force;

WHEREAS, the Task Force's June 2015 report made various recommendations that would help preserve our military bases and broaden the relationships those bases maintain with businesses small and large;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KIMBERLY M. GUADAGNO, Acting Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. Paragraph 6 of Executive Order No. 134 (2013) is amended to provide that the Task Force shall not expire upon the issuance of its final report, but rather shall continue in existence until December 31, 2017, or the end of the Administration's current term, in order to continue to support the implementation of its recommendations and to engage in any other related matters that are referred to the Task Force by me or that meet with my approval.

2. A Military and Defense Economic Ombudsman shall be appointed by the Governor, and serve at the Governor's pleasure, to evaluate and carry out the recommendations for coordinating and improving the economic environment for New Jersey's military installations and defense industry discussed in the Task Force's June 2015 report. The Ombudsman shall serve without compensation.

3. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
10th day of November,
Two Thousand and Fifteen,
and of the Independence of
the United States, the Two
Hundred and Fortieth.

Kimberly M. Guadagno
Acting Governor

Attest:

Thomas P. Scrivo
Chief Counsel to the Governor