

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Whitman Mobilizes New Jersey National Guard Troops to Transport Relief Supplies for Victims of Hurricane Mitch

The New Jersey National Guard, under orders from Gov. Christie Whitman, tomorrow will continue its mission of providing ground transportation for relief supplies that are headed to the Central American nations still suffering the effects of Hurricane Mitch.

Gov. Whitman mobilized the National Guard to state active duty in November after Hurricane Mitch devastated Central America and the Caribbean.

"Two months since Hurricane Mitch tore through Central America and the Caribbean, the nations still desperately need help," Gov. Whitman said. "People all over New Jersey have proven that a disaster anywhere in the world affects our family here in the Garden State and we are willing to help."

The New Jersey National Guard will pick up bulk food and medical supplies collected by various community agencies. Once collected, the supplies will travel to Panama on ships owned by Hanjin Shipping .

The U.S. Agency for International Development encourages the public to make donations to private voluntary organizations who are assisting with relief efforts in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Belize, Costa Rica and El Salvador. A list of organizations may be obtained by contacting InterAction directly at 202-667-8227 x 106, or via the Internet at www.interaction.org.

Donations can also be made to either a local Red Cross or the National Headquarters: International Response Fund, American Red Cross, PO Box 37243, Washington, D.C. 20013, or by calling the Red Cross at 1-800-HELP-NOW (1-800-435-7669). A Spanish- language hotline is available at 1-800-257-7575.

The National Guard will pick up supplies Tuesday at the following locations beginning at 8:30 a.m. *Times are approximate.*

Friends of Honduras 649 Mt. Prospect St. Newark 973-483-6222	8:30 -10:30 a.m.
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USA Storage 101 Paterson Plank Road Secaucus 201-319-7329	11 a.m. - noon
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El Bambi Warehouse 1600 53rd St. North Bergen 201-867-7634	12:30 - 1 p.m.
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