

Paul R. LePage  
Governor  
State of Maine  
(207) 287-3531



James D. Campbell  
Brigadier General  
Commissioner  
(207) 430-6000

**Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management  
33 State House Station  
Camp Keyes, Augusta, Maine 04333-0033**

October 9, 2013

Office of The Adjutant General

Soldiers, Airmen, Civilians and Families of the Maine National Guard:

Since last Tuesday we as a team have been faced with some serious challenges and hardships resulting from the lapse in Federal funding and the resultant "shutdown" of the Federal Government. These events have affected every member of our organization; Traditional Guard Soldiers and Airmen, our full time Airmen and Soldiers both AGR and Technician, our Federal civilian employees, and our valued State employees whose positions are funded either completely or in part by the Federal government. Our family members and employers have also been forced to deal with the turmoil this situation has presented us.

Although we were able to return the majority of Technicians and Federal Civilians to work this week, that situation may yet change again. Additionally, some units have had to cancel this months' drill and move it to later in the year and many of our State employees are still on unpaid furlough due to the absence of Federal funds. This is a difficult and trying set of circumstances and we are not near the end.

I want to assure all of you that your leadership is fully engaged at all levels, from the National Guard Bureau and our Congressional Delegation, to the Governor's office and other branches of State government. We are actively seeking information as this still-fluid situation develops, and doing everything we can to get the most pertinent information to you as rapidly as we can. If you have any questions, as always you should contact your chain of command and supervisors, and use the Maine Army National Guard website where the Human Resources office is posting updated information as we get it.

I am personally very frustrated and dismayed by this situation, and remain deeply concerned about its effects on our people and families, as well as on our mission readiness. Please accept my apologies for any distress the shutdown may have caused any of you. I have met with the Governor and other senior state officials almost daily since last week, and have been in daily contact with the National Guard Bureau and the Congressional delegation. The Governor and other leaders within the state are working as hard as they can to help us get through this challenging time, as are our leadership at NGB.

When we finally do get our Federal funds restored, we will continue to everything we can to ensure that the long-term effects of these events are mitigated to the greatest possible extent. When that happens, I am also confident that our superb organization will rapidly regain any ground we may have lost in these days and weeks. I know this because our team, our Soldiers, Airmen, Civilians and Families are the best in the nation.

Bayonets, Forward!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D. Campbell".

James D. Campbell  
Brigadier General, Maine  
National Guard  
The Adjutant General