



**DELAWARE HEALTH  
AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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06132005 OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

June 3, 2005

The Honorable Anthony J. Principi  
Chairman  
2005 Defense Base Closure and  
Realignment Commission  
2521 S. Clark Street, Ste. 600  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Chairman Principi:

The Delaware National Guard (DNG) plays an integral part in Delaware's Public Health emergency planning. In response to a natural or technological disaster, our contingency plans incorporate the use of DNG equipment, supplies, and staff. Delaware would be hard-pressed to mitigate, respond and recover from a catastrophic event without the Army and Air National Guard's skills, expertise and resources.

The State of Delaware has signed an agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to manage the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). This program has been under development for five years and Delaware recently received a "Green" rating, which is the highest level of preparedness very few states have achieved.

There are two approved SNS receiving sites in the State. One of which is the DNG New Castle County Airport site. This site has been fully evaluated and is compliant with the rigorous federal criteria including security, size and other infrastructure. This site also is used as a federal staging area for federal public health assets and personnel. At both SNS sites, DNG provides personnel to conduct logistical SNS operations.

Due to Delaware's vulnerability to severe weather and aging population, we have identified unmet needs of medically fragile individuals seeking shelter during emergencies. In the event of a serious emergency, a Medical Needs Shelter provides a safe haven for these individuals. The DNG manages and staffs the Medical Needs Shelter in Delaware. These services are vital to the health and safety of Delawareans.

Letter to Chairman Principi  
June 3, 2005  
Page Two

In closing, DNG is an important partner in our preparedness and response efforts. They provide critical skills and assets to our program. Please feel free to contact me at 302-744-7401 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

  
Jaime H. Rivera, MD, FAAP  
Director

cc: The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The Honorable Thomas R. Carper  
The Honorable Michael N. Castle  
The Honorable Ruth Ann Minner