



**State of New Jersey**  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
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**TAG POLICY LETTER 03-8\***

**7 October 2003**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND COMPLIANCE POLICY**

1. Our Environmental Mission is to fulfill military and veterans mission objectives while recognizing the need to protect our employees and the environment, and to comply with environmental laws. The United States Congress and the New Jersey Legislature both require that the performance of all military and civilian activities comply with all existing environmental laws and regulations. We must continue to achieve our mission goals and objectives by integrating environmental considerations into all of our activities. Strong environmental stewardship is essential in sustaining our long-term mission readiness capabilities.

2. Over the past several years, we have made extraordinary gains in environmental compliance during the performance of our official duties. We have reduced the amount of hazardous waste produced, the number of accidental spills, and the number of violations received. I expect your continued cooperation in reporting accidental discharges or other environmental problems immediately.

3. With respect to environment compliance, non-compliance with standards and regulations is unacceptable. If you have any questions or concerns regarding any environmental programs, refer to the applicable environmental regulation, policy or procedure, or call one of the following points of contact:

New Jersey Army National Guard & Veterans' Affairs Staff:  
DMAVA Office of Environmental Compliance  
(609) 530-7133/7134/7135/7136

New Jersey Air National Guard Staff:  
108<sup>th</sup> Base Environmental Coordinator (609) 754-4121/2910  
177<sup>th</sup> Base Environmental Coordinator (609) 383-6303/645-6230

4. The Installations Division, Office of Environmental Compliance, as well as the NJ Air National Guard Environmental Offices, manage all environmental protection programs. Among these programs, Pollution Prevention initiatives are essential in protecting our employees and the environment. Our department's Environmental Quality Control Committee (EQCC), as well as other environmental coordination committees, are directed to increase DMAVA environmental awareness, ensure environmental compliance and protection, develop guidance regarding all applicable programs, and recognize outstanding environmental compliance and protection efforts.

\* This TPL supersedes #94-14, dated June 21, 1994

5. Local policies and procedures have been created to accomplish the goals of our environmental programs. They provide the necessary guidance for compliance with all applicable Federal, State and local laws, rules, regulations and policies. They establish the responsibilities of each individual and each organization.

6. I want to emphasize the following points:


a. As military commanders or civilian supervisors, you are ultimately responsible for compliance with all environmental laws and regulations. Therefore, you must become familiar with them, as well as all DMAVA environmental policies, procedures, and guidance documents.

b. Every DMAVA employee must strive for continual improvement in environmental compliance at every level. The consequences for non-compliance can result in severe civil and criminal penalties, to include fines and imprisonment.

c. It is imperative that environmental impacts be considered in every aspect of planning your mission as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4312 et. seq.). This law affects Federally- supported actions, operations and activities. Commanders and supervisors must familiarize themselves with this law. Contact your environmental compliance manager for guidance.

7. As this Department moves forward in the twenty-first century, every soldier, airman and civilian employee must become aware of their individual responsibility for protecting the environment. The successful accomplishment of our mission has been and will always be our top priority. However, it is equally important to consider environmental impacts. Conserving, protecting, and restoring our natural resources are the first line of defense in preserving our training lands and rich heritage for future generations. The emphasis that you place on your Installation's Environmental Program is imperative for success. I am confident your complete cooperation in all environmental compliance issues will sustain our mission into the future.

(ID)



GLENN K. RIETH  
Brigadier General, NJARNG  
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