

Military Construction Projects Diverted for a Border Wall - Puerto Rico Disaster Recovery

Following Hurricanes Irma and Maria Congress appropriated over \$500 million in funds to rebuild Army National Guard facilities in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Just like in any state or territory across the United States, soldiers from the Puerto Rico Army National Guard (PRARNG) were among the first responders to communities affected by the hurricanes, providing security, conducting search and rescue operations, and coordinating relief efforts throughout the recovery period.

The Department is stripping 10 military construction projects - over \$400 million - in Puerto Rico that are meant to rebuild readiness centers, vehicle and aircraft maintenance shops, and operations facilities, all of which are meant to ensure the PRARNG can respond to future disasters and contribute to their Title 10 national defense missions.

The Department is also cutting 3 projects in the USVI totaling nearly \$28 million meant to rebuild capabilities of the Virgin Islands Army National Guard. These projects would rebuild vehicle maintenance facilities and ensure sufficient power for operations across the islands.