



TIMES RECORD

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Arkansas Guard joins ICE Enforcement  
Fort Smith Among Deployment Sites

**George “Clay” Mitchell**  
Fort Smith Southwest Times Record  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ten Arkansas National Guard members will soon be working alongside Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in Fort Smith as part of a statewide deployment announced by Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

The assignment comes under the federal Title 32 Program and will place Guard personnel in Fort Smith, Fayetteville, Little Rock, and at Camp Robinson.

In total, Arkansas will provide up to 40 personnel: 27 Air National Guard Air-

men and 13 Army National Guard Soldiers. Of those, 18 will be stationed in Little Rock, 10 in Fort Smith, 10 in Fayetteville, and two at Camp Robinson for command and control.

Guardsmen will not be armed and will primarily provide administrative and logistical support. Their duties include assisting with detainee transport, processing detained individuals, and clerical work to help ICE agents focus on core enforcement activities.

“Violent, criminal, illegal immigrants have no place in Arkansas,” Sanders

**See GUARD, Page 2A**



The Arkansas Army National Guard trained alongside Central Arkansas law enforcement officers at Burns Park in Little Rock, coordinating responses to civil disturbances back in early August. The Arkansas ANG will deploy 40 soldiers to Fort Smith, Fayetteville, and Little Rock to assist ICE.

PROVIDED BY ARKANSAS ARMY NATIONAL GUARD



A firefighter sits on a damaged fire truck on Sept. 11, 2001, following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Responders continue to die from the toxic exposures at Ground Zero. SETH HARRISON/THE JOURNAL NEWS FILE

9/11 responders  
worry about cuts

**Advocates say program affected by HHS chaos**

**Nancy Cutler**  
Rockland/Westchester Journal News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Soon, 2,983 names will be read aloud at what was Ground Zero on Sept. 11, 2001. Similarly solemn ceremonies will remember those lost 24 years ago in the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Speeches and prayers will likely include pledges to “never forget.”

Meanwhile, the World Trade Center Health Program flounders, advocates warn, as 9/11 responders continue to die from the toxic exposures at Ground Zero. Survivors, including those who lived, worked or went to school in Lower Manhattan, face similar illnesses.

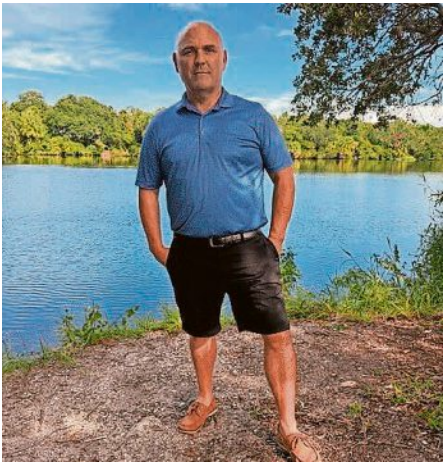
“Eventually it’s gonna kill me. I have a lot of concerns with my family, the fact I have a wife and two beautiful daughters.”

**Richard Volpe**  
Retired NYPD detective and 9/11 survivor

The WTC Health Program, established as part of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010, offers screenings and treatments for diseases and disorders classified as caused by exposures on Sept. 11, 2001, and the months after.

Among the issues in question: The status of long-planned studies to include World Trade Center Health Program coverage for conditions like cancer and autoimmune disorders, which have been seen at what appears to be higher

**See CUTS, Page 2A**



Retired NYPD Detective Richard Volpe, now a St. Augustine, Florida, resident, worked on the rescue and recovery efforts after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He developed a rare autoimmune disease that attacked his kidneys.

LUCIA VITI/ST. AUGUSTINE RECORD

Carry  
The Load  
brings Day  
of Service

**Volunteers to clean headstones at Fort Smith National Cemetery**

**George “Clay” Mitchell**  
Fort Smith Southwest Times Record  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Volunteers will gather at Fort Smith National Cemetery on Thursday, Sept. 11, to honor fallen service members and first responders as part of Carry The Load’s National Day of Service and Remembrance.

The event, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., will include cleaning headstones.

“We’ll get a pretty good mix of people. Some years we’ll have 20-25, and sometimes we’ll have 10. It depends on what’s happening in Fort Smith that may be a bigger draw. The first year we did this, we had about 30,” said Ron Reading, a local organizer. “Kids will come out with their parents. We had a school out one time, people volunteering with their company, and some military people as well.”

Reading is retired from the Air National Guard and from the Fort Smith fire department and is an ambassador with the Sheep Dog Impact Assistance (SDIA), which has partnered with Carry The Load for the event. The SDIA began as a group in Arkansas and has since spread nationwide.

“To me, it’s beyond words. It’s such an extreme honor for me to be able to clean those headstones, since I have friends and family who are buried out there. I get to go and visit with them,” Reading said. “Sadly, I don’t do enough of that now that I’m getting older, but I do when there’s an event. I’ll try to see everyone that I know who is out there. I know there are others like that.”

For Ron Reading, the day is deeply personal. On Sept. 11, 2001, he had just come off a 12-hour shift and was driving to his home in Paris, about an hour away from Fort Smith. He left work after 7 a.m. and didn’t have his radio on “for some reason, but the windows

**See CEMETERY, Page 2A**