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## A DEEP CLIMATE, HEALTH IMPACT

### Like Reagan, Trump is cutting environmental regulations

**Barbara Kates-Garnick** Tufts University | THE CONVERSATION

When the Trump administration announced it was moving to eliminate dozens of U.S. climate policies, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin said he was sending “a dagger straight into the heart of the climate change religion.” • That drive – to both repeal environmental regulations and cast doubt on science – reflects the Trump administration’s approach to environment policy. • Deregulation has long been a key theme in Republican environmental policy. The conflict between the obligation to protect public health and the desire to boost markets traces back to former President Ronald Reagan’s administration. Reagan’s perspective that government is not a solution to problems, but is the problem instead, set the stage for Republican administrations that followed.

Reagan argued that the growth of government spending and business regulation had stymied economic prosperity. Environmental regulations were a prime target.

Forty years later, America is seeing many of the same concepts in President Donald Trump’s administration. However, its strategy could have a greater effect than Reagan ever envisioned.

**Slashing budgets and staffing**

There are many ways to kneecap government agencies: Instituting massive budget cuts, cutting staff with critical functions and appointing leadership whose goal is limiting the reach and effectiveness of the very agencies they direct are just a few.

In these efforts, Reagan and Trump had similar approaches to the EPA, although with different levels of intensity.

Trump’s EPA budget plan for 2026 includes a draconian 50% cut from the previous year and the lowest budget proposal, when adjusted for inflation, since Reagan. Staff cuts in just the first six months of the second Trump

**See IMPACT, Page 8A**

## JOINT BASE MDL

# Civilian worker charged in active-shooter hoax at base

**Jim Walsh**  
Cherry Hill Courier-Post | USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

A civilian employee at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst made a false report of an active shooter that put the military compound in lockdown Sept. 30, authorities said.

Malika Brittingham, who works for the U.S. Navy, wanted to prompt a police response that she expected to create closer ties with her coworkers, according to an affidavit filed with a criminal complaint.

“Brittingham explained that she carried out this hoax because she had been ostracized by her coworkers and hoped that their shared experience in response to an active shooter would allow them to ‘trauma bond,’ “ the complaint said.

**See CHARGED, Page 2A**



Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst shown along Route 539 (Whiting-New Egypt Road) on Sept. 30 in Manchester Township. DOUG HOOD/ASBURY PARK PRESS

# Former teacher surrenders certificates

**Jim Walsh**  
Cherry Hill Courier-Post | USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

A former South Jersey educator who served on Ocean City’s beach patrol has relinquished his teaching certificates, members of a state board have announced.

The action by Jonathan Howell will have “the force and effect of a revocation,” said members of New Jersey’s State Board of Examiners.

Their statement did not disclose allegations against Howell, a former math teacher at Pleasantville High School.

**See CERTIFICATES, Page 2A**

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