



**NEWS RELEASE**

## **Department of Public Safety**

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### **Final National Guard Members Released from Flood Response**

**PIERRE, S.D. –** The final South Dakota National Guard members involved in levee patrols and other Missouri River flood response missions were released from that duty today (Friday, Sept. 2).

The release of National Guard members from levee patrols in the Dakota Dunes area of Union County also signaled the end of formal flood response missions for state and federal agencies after more than three months of activity.

“This is a milestone day in terms of state and federal flood response,” said Kristi Turman, Director of the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management. “All of us involved in the flood response recognize that the important work of recovery continues and will continue for weeks to come. That has become the focus for state, federal and local agencies. But having the flood-response missions come to an end is a significant moment for the people of South Dakota who have been impacted by record flooding.”

National Guard members were demobilized from levee security in the Pierre and Fort Pierre area on Aug. 25. At the height of the response to the Missouri River flooding, some 1,300 National Guard men and women were on duty.