



M. JODI RELL  
GOVERNOR

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## **Governor Rell Orders Change to State Email Policy**

### ***Enables Immediate Family Members to Contact Deployed Troops***

Governor M. Jodi Rell announced today she has ordered a change to the state's email policy that will enable state employees use state systems to communicate with their immediate family members who have been deployed overseas for participation in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Separation due to military service is difficult on everyone, and we want to do all we can to support our troops and their families," Governor Rell said. "This change will allow those who are bravely serving overseas to stay in touch with their loved ones. It is the right thing to do, and I thank the state employees who have brought this issue to my attention. State policies and procedures need to be updated from time to time, and this is a perfect example of how we can serve the greater good by using common sense."

The email policy change states that employees may send email on their breaks or during their lunch periods, and they must notify their immediate supervisor of their actions.

The new policy defines immediate family members as: husband, wife, domestic partner, father, mother, sister, brother, child and any relative who is domiciled in the employee's household.

Currently, 970 Connecticut National Guard soldiers are deployed overseas. Earlier this month, Governor Rell and the Connecticut National Guard kicked off ***Operation E.L.F. (Embracing Lonely Families)*** – to help Connecticut service members and their families during the holiday season. To assist with the collection, a web site, [www.operationelf.com](http://www.operationelf.com) and several Operation E.L.F. hotline numbers have been set up as part of the effort. The numbers are (860) 524-4922, (860) 524-4924, and 1-800-858-2677.

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