STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

EO 15-17

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME -- GREETINGS:

AN EXECUTIVE ORDER TO PROTECT THE ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD

WHEREAS: On Thursday, July 16th in Chattanooga, Tennessee, United States military personnel were targeted and murdered, along with others who were injured, in an act of domestic terrorism at a United States Armed Services recruiting center and a Naval Reserve Facility; and

WHEREAS: The United States Military and the Arkansas National Guard serve our country with bravery and honor and protect the freedom of our nation; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas will take any and every measure available to protect and secure military personnel against attacks, including but not limited to securing the work areas and recruiting stations for the Arkansas National Guard; and

WHEREAS: Article 6, Section 6 of the Arkansas Constitution establishes the governor as the Commander-in-Chief; and

WHEREAS: The Adjutant General of the Arkansas National Guard should identify appropriate and qualified members of the Arkansas National Guard authorized to carry firearms under Department of Defense Directive Number 5210.56, and other applicable regulations, federal law, or state law, and issue appropriate orders designating security procedures for members of the Arkansas National Guard and facilities to have the means of self-defense should such an attack occur in the State of Arkansas.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby order the following:

1. In the interest of immediately securing Arkansas National Guard members who might be targeted along with other US military personnel, I hereby direct Arkansas Adjutant General Major General Mark Berry to direct all Arkansas National Guard members at the state's nine store-front recruitment facilities to relocate to their nearest Arkansas National Guard armory or wing. These members will be relocated to armories or wings until Major General Mark Berry can fully evaluate and make recommendations for improving the security of store-front recruitment centers.

2. I hereby direct Arkansas Adjutant General Major General Mark Berry to begin discussions with local law enforcement agencies to arrange regular security checks for Arkansas National Guard armories and wings. Such scheduled security checks can then be increased or decreased based on the acuity of the national security threat to the area.

3. In accordance with the directive given to Arkansas Adjutant General Major General Mark Berry on July 17th and all other applicable directives, regulations, federal law, and state law, the Arkansas Adjutant General Major General Mark Berry is authorized and directed to identify and arm appropriate and qualified members of the Arkansas National Guard personnel as reasonably necessary to preserve the lives, property, and security of themselves and other persons subject to threat of an attack.

This Executive Order shall become effective upon its signing, and shall remain in full force and effect until amended or rescinded by further executive orders.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed at the Capitol in Little Rock on the 20th day of July, in the year of our Lord 2015.

ASA HUTCHINSON, GOVERNOR

Attest:

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State