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### **U.S. Army North's ongoing response to COVID-19**

**FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas** - U.S. Army North, as U.S. Northern Command's Joint Force Land Component Command, continues to support the Department of Defense's COVID-19 response efforts in coordination with FEMA and state and local officials in several locations around the country, while remaining flexible to rapidly respond to changing requirements.

Throughout the response, the JFLCC continues to emphasize the well-being of the force. To that end, the JFLCC has a robust behavioral health presence to support deployed service members. More than 110 behavioral health personnel from the Army, Navy and Air Force, and Unit Ministry Teams are working with our healthcare providers, support staff, and mortuary affairs personnel, as well as patients.

Behavioral health personnel are also exchanging information with their civilian counterparts in New York City to share behavioral health and resiliency program information and best practices through a series of webinars. Unit leaders also continue to monitor the well-being of their personnel who are providing support to the federal response.

"We understand the burden placed upon our service members on the front lines assisting our state and local partners in treating COVID-19 patients and providing mortuary affairs support," said Lt. Gen. Laura Richardson, JFLCC and Army North Commanding General. "We are ensuring that our deployed service members have the support they need to carry out these crucial, and at times somber missions. Leaders on the ground in NYC and across the United States will continue to monitor their teams and ensure they have access to these services so that they can continue helping communities in need."

The JFLCC currently has approximately 8,200 personnel directly supporting COVID operations. Thus far, the JFLCC has supported 118 Mission Assignments, which are the tasks FEMA gives federal agencies supporting a disaster response. This includes four Disaster Mortuary Response Teams in New York City; as well as medical professionals providing support at 23 civilian hospitals and seven Alternate Care Facilities across the country. It also includes approximately 3,100 medical professionals, providing medical support in 11 cities in seven states, including:

- New York City
- Newark, Atlantic City, and Edison, New Jersey
- Stamford, Connecticut
- Detroit

- Boston and Tewksbury, Massachusetts
- New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Philadelphia

As cities see positive results from their efforts to flatten the curve, military forces are repositioning out of areas where needs have changed. In consultation with local and state leadership, the Javits Center in New York City will end its medical support mission May 1. We will continue to support New York City's Health + Hospitals public hospital system with more than 630 active duty and Reserve medical personnel from the Army, Navy and Air Force embedded in 11 local hospitals.

NORTHCOM and the JFLCC continue to work with FEMA, National Guard Dual Status Commanders, and other federal, state, and local officials to refine requirements for further support. Our military support will be available as long as required. We continue to diligently plan for possible future support, leveraging lessons learned to prepare responsive and flexible support for any future operations.

Coined the "Strength of the Nation," Army North plans, exercises, and trains year round with federal, state, and local partners. We stand ready to provide life-saving and life-sustaining capabilities in support of federal, state, local, tribal and territorial partners to help the American people in their time of need.

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Editor's Notes:

1. The U.S. Army North Public Affairs Office can be reached by phone at 210-221-0229 or by email at [usarmy.jbsa.arnorth.mbx.pao-media-operations@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.jbsa.arnorth.mbx.pao-media-operations@mail.mil)
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