



Release # 20-05-001

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May 11, 2020

U.S. Army North Continues providing DoD support to COVID-19 response

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas - U.S. Army North, as U.S. Northern Command's Joint Force Land Component Command, is continuing to support the Department of Defense's COVID-19 response while adjusting the amount of forces currently deployed based on local needs.

Military medical personnel are deployed in civilian hospitals in six states, including Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Louisiana. In New York City, nearly 800 service members are working in local hospitals. The JFLCC continues to work in concert with FEMA and local and state authorities, to extend mission assignments where requested to sustain medical support to facilities in need.

"We remain committed to helping the American people and will continue to work with FEMA, and other federal, state, and local partners to plan for and provide support in response to COVID-19 as long as needed," said Lt. Gen. Laura Richardson, the DoD's COVID-19 response Joint Force Land Component Commander, and commander of U.S. Army North. "Together we have helped flatten the curve while simultaneously maintaining our nation's ability to protect our Homeland. Going forward, we will continue to meet our nation's needs whether it's the COVID-19 response, our homeland defense mission, or providing support for other potential DoD responses such as earthquake, hurricane, or wildfire response."

After supporting 128 FEMA-approved mission assignments nationwide over the past seven weeks, the need for additional DoD support is declining in certain locations. Federal military forces staffing the Javits Center in New York City and Alternate Care Facilities in Detroit, Boston, Philadelphia, Dallas and New Orleans have concluded their medical support. Service members will return to their home stations upon completion of redeployment requirements.

Ensuring the health and welfare of returning service members, their families, and local communities is of the utmost importance. Redeployment of forces will take place in phases, depending on local needs and conditions.

The reduced demand for medical support also allows the JFLCC to reallocate missions and reduce the number and size of command and control elements around the country. These reallocations and reductions allow the commands to focus their efforts on redeployment procedures in preparation for demobilization, the reset of equipment, and the return of service members to their home stations and families.

Redeploying units include the following:

- 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command Headquarters, Anderson, S.C.
- Task Force 76, formed by the 76th Operational Response Command headquarters, Salt Lake City, Utah
- 9th Hospital Center, Fort Hood, Texas
- 531st Hospital Center, Fort Campbell, Ky.

In addition, four Urban Augmentation Medical Task Forces that were deployed to the Javits Center in New York City, the Boston Convention and Events Center in Boston, and the TCF Center in Detroit, as well as personnel from the Navy Expeditionary Medical Facilities from Bethesda, Md. and Jacksonville, Fl., who were deployed to New York City, Dallas and New Orleans, have completed their medical support missions and have begun redeployment requirements to return to their home stations.

Around the country, as mission assignments expire and the demand for federal medical capability diminishes, the JFLCC will continue to assess need and conduct analysis for further phased withdrawal of forces in coordination with FEMA, state, and local officials.

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Editor's Notes:

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