Below is a sampling of media referring to the New York National Guard in the past week

A field Hospital is being set up -- NYNG credited:
WCBS March 26, 2020

NY National Guard doubles force responding to COVID-19:
Nationalguard.mil, March 27, 2020

New york National Guard turning... ( NYANG video):
WTVT-TB (FOX) - Tampa Bay, FL, March 26, 2020

Support grows to federally fund all 10,000 National Guard members fighting coronavirus pandemic:
Stars & Strips ,March 25, 2020

In Pandemic, Rumors of Martial Law Fly Despite Reassurances: The use of National Guard units around the country to help with the response to the coronavirus pandemic is prompting rumors of a military-enforced national lockdown or even martial law:
Associated Press, March 25, 2020

Photos show the National Guard converting New York City's Javits Center into a disaster hospital for coronavirus patients:
Business Insider, March 25, 2020

National Guard Prepares Javits Convention Center for New York City Patients (video):
Yahoo News, 26 March 2020

Virus takes toll on US military as it tries to aid civilians:
The Telegraph, Thursday, March 26, 2020

National Guard troops are deploying to help with coronavirus. Here’s what they’re doing: They’re helping with medical tests and cleaning public spaces, not imposing martial law:
Vox.com, March 24, 2020:

Three Army field hospitals ordered to New York, Washington states:
Military Times, March 23, 2020:

NY National Guard supports hospitals with tents for treatment:
Army.mil, By Col. Richard Goldenberg | New York National Guard March 23, 2020

Army plans to turn NYC hotel, dorm rooms into coronavirus hospitals:
NY Post, March 22, 2020:

Latest Guard update: More than 11,400 troops mobilized for COVID-19 response:
Military Times, March 26, 2020:

A field Hospital is being set up -- NYNG credited
TRANSCRIPT -- a field hospital is being set up to help with the overflow of patients from hospitals. The New York National guard provides this video of teams assembling cots. At least 1,000 beds will be made available in a main floor showroom. The governor says it will take at least a week to get those set up. >>> In an effort to get New Yorkers fresh air, four streets across the city will close to traffic, helping those coping with cabin fever and also keep a safe distance. CBS2’s Dave Carlin has more now on this pilot program. >> Reporter: Police brought tools to close a street in every borough minus Staten Island, giving people more outdoor walking space where they must continue to keep a safe distance from others. Four streets become pedestrian promenades for a four day pilot program, a test that begins Friday morning. The spot in Queens is 34th Avenue from 73rd Street to 80th Street. This is where we saw the most activity. The Brooklyn location is Bushwick Avenue between Johnson Avenue and Flushing Avenue. The rules here and the ones in Queens and Manhattan, include no through traffic for vehicles from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pickups and drop-offs must be at the corners and cross streets. It is a little different from the Bronx location which is Grand Concourse between East Burnside Avenue and 184th Street. Also 10:00 to 7:00 for the four days but service roads remain open allowing parked cars to stay and vehicles including buses to get through. Rounding out the four test sites in Manhattan is Park Avenue between 28th Street and 34th Street, a move being done to help the public's overall health at a time when streets are nearly empty by parks are not. The program takes pressure off of Central Park and other reaction areas getting too busy. The executive director of the group, Transportation Alternatives, is Danny Harrisburg. I says because of that it is not enough to have four closed streets, which together make up a total of 1.6 miles. >> The pilot problem encapsulates .02% of the amount of road space. Now is time to open more of them to residents, especially those that must be out for mission-critical work. >> Especially with a New site that may attract a lot of...
Cuomo implemented "New York on Pause" March 22, limiting business activities to essential functions and encouraging New Yorkers to "stay home, stop the spread and save lives."

"We know the most effective way to reduce the spread of this virus is through social distancing and density reduction measures," Cuomo said.

New York National Guard members helped the New York State Department of Health establish and administer six drive-thru COVID-19 testing stations in New York City, Long Island, Westchester and Rockland counties.

Army National Guard combat medics and Air Guard medical technicians joined Department of Health medical providers in gathering samples for testing. Other personnel provide administration, logistics and traffic support at the sites.

While testing is a crucial part of understanding the spread of COVID-19, Guard members were encouraged to take on this unique role, said Air National Guard Command Master Sgt. Karolyn Devito, medical superintendent assigned to the 109th Airlift Wing.

"They were super excited, happy to help to be out here and working in such an important way," Devito said of her team at the Staten Island testing site.

In Manhattan, the Guard is supporting FEMA field hospitals with city and state officials at the Jacob Javits Center. Soldiers from the 133rd Composite Supply Company, part of the 369th Sustainment Brigade, are helping set up the infrastructure in the convention center's 1.8 million square feet of space.

Cuomo said setting up the four 250-bed field hospitals at the site would begin March 25 and take a week to 10 days. The National Guard will provide a mayor's cell and Soldiers to support the 320 federal staff members who will operate the site.

Army Guard Soldiers are supporting five warehousing sites to assist the state with emergency supply management and distribution. They are also delivering state-procured hand sanitizer to local governments in Westchester and New York City.

As the City of New Rochelle completes its second week of a citywide 14-day stay-at-home policy after the virus outbreak there March 12, Soldiers and Airmen continue to package and distribute food from local food pantries.

Other Soldiers are cleaning public spaces across New Rochelle. Teams have cleaned city hall, the YMCA, the Jewish Community Center and more than a half dozen places of worship.

Still other teams of Soldiers helped the Westchester County Office of Emergency Management provide tents to local hospitals March 18-20 as they prepare for an influx of patients.

"With all you guys here, we can just bang it out quick," said Jim Sheridan, a retired Westchester firefighter supporting delivery and placement of tents.

Pvt. Cindy Ganesh, assigned to the 369th Sustainment Brigade Headquarters, delivered food and hand sanitizer and put up tents at sampling sites.

"We're all in this together," Ganesh said, "so it's good to be working on different missions."

With repetition, the Soldiers and firefighters made quick work of the tent mission at the New York-Presbyterian-Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor March 20.

"Twenty-two minutes, that's a new record, even for us," Sheridan said. " Goes to show how fast this goes when we all work together."

Soldiers and Airmen are helping staff state call centers in Rotterdam and Brooklyn to answer questions from residents. They are among 577 people who handled more than 26,000 phone calls March 25.
"I take a great deal of pride in my team, made up of Soldiers and Airmen from all over New York State," said 1st Lt. Michael Flickinger, a leader for one of the call center teams who is assigned to the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Headquarters. "Like myself, they were activated without a detailed understanding of what kind of missions they'd be given. We've adjusted to these unique circumstances in a way that gives me confidence we are ready to face whatever comes next."

New York National Guard Soldiers also helped the Department of Health's Wadsworth Laboratory in Albany assemble 22,000 COVID-19 testing kits in one day.

The NYNG has fully committed its forces around the state, establishing a joint task force headquarters in every region to support local governments.

Testing sites on Long Island are coordinated by the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing at Gabreski Air National Guard Base in Westhampton Beach.

Operations in New York City to support the Javits Center hospital expansion, sampling sites in the Bronx and Staten Island and food distribution are led by the state's homeland security task force at Fort Hamilton.

Testing in Westchester and Rockland Counties, along with logistics support and operations in New Rochelle, are coordinated by the 53rd Troop Command headquarters at the NYNG training site at Camp Smith near Peekskill.

The 109th Airlift Wing, based at Stratton Air National Guard Base near Schenectady, established a task force to handle call support, logistical support and other missions that might arise in the Albany area.

Missions to support warehousing emergency supplies in Central New York are coordinated by the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team with support from the 174th Attack Wing at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base in Syracuse.

Western New York missions are supported by a joint task force that includes the 153rd Troop Command Headquarters in Buffalo and the 107th Attack Wing from Niagara Falls.

Maj. Gen. Ray Shields, the adjutant general of New York, praised the joint force for working together with so many city, state and federal agencies.

"I am extremely proud of the great work you are doing," Shields said in a statewide message March 24. "When I visit with you in the field, the morale and esprit de corps is outstanding."

The governor also emphasized the impact of New York's resourcefulness when working together.

"We're going to get through it because we are New York and because we've dealt with a lot of things, and because we are smart," Cuomo said March 24. "You have to be smart to make it in New York. And we are resourceful, and we are showing how resourceful we are. And because we are united, and when you are united, there is nothing you can't do."

Airman 1st Class Anthony Walsh of the 106th Rescue Wing echoed the governor's emphasis on teamwork to contain the disease.

"It's not just me showing up one weekend a month," Walsh said at the Jones Beach testing site on Long Island March 20. "This is why I show up. This is worth it, and I'm proud to be here."

New York National Guard turning... (NYANG video)

WTVT-TB (FOX) - Tampa Bay, FL, March 26, 2020:

TRANSCRIPT - don't act on impulse. put your money back in your pocket and if you're not sure, contact the better business bureau. >> good advice right there. in america's hot zone members of the New York National guard are turning this New York city convention center into a temporary medical facility is covid-19 patients over wellness area hospitals. medical facilities at the site will be used to house noncovered patients and relieve the burden on local hospitals. >>


Support grows to federally fund all 10,000 National Guard members fighting coronavirus pandemic

Stars & Strips, March 25, 2020:

The call to approve federal funding for all of the more than 10,000 National Guard members activated to combat the coronavirus pandemic is growing among governors and lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

“Thousands of National Guard troops have been activated under [state active-duty] status and state governments are already struggling to cover the costs of emergency response operations required by the ongoing [coronavirus] crisis,” Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., wrote in a letter Tuesday to President Donald Trump asking him to grant all states Title 32 status, which allows for troops to remain under the control of a state’s governor, but funded by the federal government.

Trump on Sunday approved federal funds to support the Guard in the three states most heavily impacted by the virus, which has infected more than 62,000 Americans and killed more than 860 as of Wednesday.

California, with about 500 troops activated; New York, with about 2,100; and Washington state, with a handful of full-time personnel working within the state emergency operations center, make up more than 25% of all troops working in some capacity in all 50 states, three U.S. territories and Washington, D.C.

Guard troops are conducting a variety of missions that include helping open and support coronavirus testing sites, helping feed people through food banks and free school lunch...
programs, distributing and transporting medical protective equipment, building field hospitals in sports arenas and convention centers, and screening passengers at major airports.

“The policies that I am requesting you implement will provide states with certainty, and more importantly, critically-needed financial relief,” wrote Duckworth, a combat veteran and retired lieutenant colonel. She deployed in 2004 as a Blackhawk helicopter pilot with the Illinois National Guard, which has more than 200 troops activated for coronavirus response.

Aside from relieving the financial burden of the pandemic from states, the federal status also gives additional benefits to National Guard service members such as access to Tricare medical coverage, military hospital facilities, federal worker’s compensation, death gratuity, GI Bill accrual and retirement points for service.

The National Governors Association last week made a similar call to Trump.

“All our citizen-soldiers who are stepping up in each of the states need the exact same help so [the Federal Emergency Management Agency] and the federal government can help cover the costs of the National Guard’s important relief missions,” Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, who serves as the chairman of the association, said last week during a news conference.

Maryland’s adjutant general, Army Maj. Gen. Timothy E. Gowen, released a statement that echoed the governor.

“It’s so important for the National Guard to be granted Title 32 authority during this nationwide crisis,” he said. “Title 32 authority is operationally efficient and provides much needed protections to our Guard members.”

Hogan, who has activated more than 1,600 Guard members, said Wednesday that the states are still awaiting final action.

All state governors are able to apply for the Title 32 status through FEMA, Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said Tuesday during a news conference.

“We're working through those issues now as states submit their requests through FEMA to be in concert with the president's guidance,” Lengyel said. “It has to be a FEMA approved mission. But as those get approved, I would think that even more National Guard members will come on duty faster and sooner.”

Governors could also find financial relief for National Guard costs through the third phase of coronavirus economic stimulus legislation working its way through Congress this week. The $2 trillion package includes nearly $1.5 billion to fund National Guard troops.

As negotiations continue in Congress, governors are continuing efforts that will pave the way for federal military work to occur within their states. Eight states — California, Colorado, Massachusetts, Maryland, New York, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Washington — have
approved the use of dual-status commanders, who can command National Guard and active-duty military troops.

New York, which has nearly half of all U.S. coronavirus cases, and Washington state, which has more than 2,400 cases, will soon see active-duty troops deployed as the Army announced Tuesday that it is sending three medical field hospital units to the two states.

Other states leaning on National Guard support in large numbers include Louisiana with more than 625 activated personnel, Florida with nearly 1,500 and Ohio with more than 400.

Kentucky, which has about 40 soldiers and airmen activated, has identified they could pull in about 5,000 of its 7,500 members to combat the virus, said Maj. Stephen Martin, a Kentucky National Guard spokesman.

“We’ve tried to identify those service members who are already providing support to the state as first responders, medical personnel, etc.,” he said. “Additionally, we’ve worked to identify those who are taking care of elderly grandparents or immune-deficient children as well to try to avoid calling them up.”

The Senate has yet to vote on the third phase of coronavirus relief, which will then need to go to the House for approval.

Yet despite what you may have read in a text message or on social media, there are currently no plans for a national quarantine, let alone martial law. Those National Guard units? They're busy distributing food and medical supplies.

Rumors of a military-enforced national lockdown have been debunked repeatedly by state and federal authorities who say their recurrence shows just how persistent false claims can be during an emergency, and why it's vital to find reliable sources of information.

“I hear unfounded rumors about National Guard troops supporting a nationwide quarantine,” said Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau. "Let me be clear: There has been no such discussion."

NATIONAL GUARD ACTIVATED

More than 4,000 National Guard reservists have been deployed in at least 31 states to help with the response to the virus, according to Defense Secretary Mark Esper. Their missions vary, though primarily they're being used to distribute food and supplies.

Unlike other military service members, National Guard members are under the dual control of their states' governor and the president. While they can be deployed overseas in combat zones, they also regularly respond to domestic emergencies, such as wildfires or hurricanes.

Authorities say the coronavirus pandemic is similar to those kinds of crises, though on a much larger scale.

“With COVID-19, it's like we have 54 separate hurricanes in every state, territory and the District of Columbia,” Lengyel said.

SO WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

As more COVID-19 tests become available, guardsmen in some states are helping at testing sites. That’s the case in Rhode Island and New York, where Guard members are expected to help with traffic control and administrative tasks at the state's first drive-thru testing site.

Meanwhile, members of the Guard and another military agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, are working to transform the mammoth Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in Manhattan into a 1,000-bed hospital.

In South Carolina, Gov. Henry McMaster has asked the Guard to draw up plans for the construction of temporary medical facilities adjacent to hospitals, should they be needed.

In Louisiana, the Guard is providing security at areas where people were in isolation or quarantine. In Maryland, they helped bring cruise ship passengers home from quarantine at a Georgia air base.
For most, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms. But for some older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

RUMORS OF NATIONAL LOCKDOWN, MARTIAL LAW

Anxiety about the outbreak and the escalating response to it have led to confusion — and misinformation — about the Guard's role.

As government officials began activating the National Guard, text messages and posts suggesting that the guardsmen would enforce martial law began being widely shared.

The posts, often claiming to be from a “friend of a friend,” advised that within 48 to 72 hours the president would order a two-week mandatory quarantine and that the National Guard would mobilize to administer it.

These messages all sought to create a sense of urgency, which can lead people to panic-buy or make rapid travel decisions, said Clint Watts, a senior fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute and Alliance for Securing Democracy.

“It shows the power of conspiracies when people are scared,” he said. “It’s creating havoc.”

While there are no announced plans yet to use National Guard members to enforce stay-home directives, California Gov. Gavin Newsom did float the possibility for his state when he called up 500 guardsmen to help distribute food.

SO WHAT IS MARTIAL LAW?

Martial law is the imposition of military control over civilians, usually during a time of war. Civilian courts are shut down, and military justice prevails.

It's been declared several times throughout American history. Hawaii, when it was a U.S. territory, was placed under martial law for most of World War II. President Abraham Lincoln declared martial law during the Civil War.

What's happening now is not martial law, experts say. For one reason, elected governors and the president remain in charge, and courts continue to operate.

Even if military personnel are asked to enforce local laws it wouldn't be martial law, since they'd be enforcing civil laws passed by elected lawmakers, according to Stephen Vladeck, a constitutional law expert at the University of Texas School of Law.

“Seeing the military in our neighborhoods and our communities is not martial law,” he said. “It's nothing short of fear mongering to equate it with that.”

A FOREIGN DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN?
Some federal officials have said there's reason to believe foreign governments are behind some of the rumors about the coronavirus in the U.S.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf said Russia and groups from other countries spread false information to “sow discord on any controversial issue,” adding that rumors of a national quarantine were “part of a disinformation campaign.”

Social media platforms have said they see no clear signs of foreign coordination but that they're trying to identify and remove misinformation about the virus.


Photos show the National Guard converting New York City's Javits Center into a disaster hospital for coronavirus patients

Business Insider, March 25, 2020:

Photos show the National Guard converting New York City's Javits Center into a disaster hospital for coronavirus patients

In an effort to combat the alarming increase of coronavirus cases, the Jacob K. Javits Center in Manhattan is being converted into an emergency hospital.

The main showroom of the center will be broken up into four 250-bed hospitals, each about 40,000 square feet in size.

There will be 320 Federal Emergency Management Agency workers assigned to the four hospitals in the center.

With over 20,000 confirmed cases, New York has the largest number of coronavirus cases of any US state.

Scroll down to see pictures of the construction of the Javits Center that will soon become New York City's first makeshift disaster hospital.

Over the weekend, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced plans to open a new makeshift hospital in the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in Manhattan in an effort to contain the state's rising coronavirus cases.
The New York National Guard, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Javits employees have since been constructing the 1,000-bed facility, which is set to start operating in a week to 10 days.

As of March 24, New York had over 20,000 confirmed cases — the largest number of coronavirus cases of any US state.

In an effort to create more space for the increasing number of coronavirus patients, the Jacob K. Javits Center in Manhattan is being converted into a makeshift hospital.


As one of the nation's biggest venues, the convention center is usually used for events like comic cons, auto shows, and large conferences.

But on Saturday, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said the main showroom of the center will be broken up into four 250-bed hospitals, each about 40,000 square feet in size.

A map of the field hospital arrangement in the Javits Center on March 23, 2020. Bryan R. Smith/AFP via Getty Images

That will account for 1,000 beds. The state is also hoping to add an additional 1,000 beds for less intensive medical care, Cuomo said.

"This was never an intended use, but you do what you have to do. That's the New York way. That's the American way," Cuomo said when he visited the center on Monday.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo speaks to the media at the Javits Center on March 23, 2020. Mike Segar/Reuters

"You're going to see an over-capacity of our health system. Right now, we're projecting you'll see more people into the health care system than we can handle," Cuomo said according to CBS News.

Meanwhile, the New York National Guard, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Javits employees are setting up the hospital. It is expected to start operating in a week to 10 days.

They have already started bringing in different medical equipment...

...ranging from hospital beds...

...to ventilators, a crucial device used to help the worst-hit coronavirus patients breathe even after the infection has ravaged their lungs.
There will be 320 Federal Emergency Management Agency workers assigned to the four hospitals in the center.


National Guard Prepares Javits Convention Center for New York City Patients (video)

Yahoo News, 26 March 2020:

Members of the New York Army National Guard prepared the Jacob Javits Convention Center in Manhattan on March 25 to receive patients as a temporary medical facility, as COVID-19 patients began to overwhelm city hospitals.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced plans on March 21 to arrange some 1,000 beds in four field hospitals at the site, with the option of 1,000 additional beds for “lighter medical care” at the center.

This footage shows members of New York Army National Guard’s 133rd Composite Supply Company, part of the 53rd Troop Command, getting the site ready.

According to the Javits Center’s website, the medical facilities at the site will be used to “house non-COVID-19 patients and relieve the burden on local hospitals.”

The Javits Center is generally home to large conventions. Earlier this month, the center was packed with attendees of a wine and spirits trade show.

As of Wednesday evening, New York City had recorded over 20,000 positive cases of COVID-19, and at least 280 deaths from complications of the virus, according to the mayor’s office.

https://uk.news.yahoo.com/national-guard-prepares-javits-convention-183322687.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly9uZXdzLmdvb2dsZS5zZS5jb20v&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAG194x3sGhF0W ncMhYzR33PvhlrQEUJrR5lYmOwcoVAuuILKBeWBj6ERk3fOt7miZvCuXYDx6t6wPtCbVQszQPSahsTv-nFv3lZPQnjqgewGQEUhO6pnD5Vlbr3YxhrWZJXb7y30X8-zDdWIKJ3g4oCD1M2leRbcppvvel

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The coronavirus is taking a growing toll on the U.S. military, and commanders and senior officials are bracing for worse. From nuclear missile fields at home to war zones abroad, from flight lines to ships at sea, the Pentagon is striving to shield vital missions even as it faces urgent calls for help on the civilian front.

Training exercises big and small, including one of the largest in Europe since the end of the Cold War, have been curtailed. Army recruiting stations have closed. Troops around the globe are hunkering down to confront an enemy unlike anything the world's most lethal armed forces have encountered before.

Until then, the ramifications of COVID-19 for the military are likely to expand. There are worries, for example, about the defense industry being weakened and key weapons development slowed.

Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says that in a worse-case scenario, the military will lose some of its preparedness for combat and other missions. But the impact is likely to be “moderate to minor to low in terms of its risk" to national defense, he told reporters on Monday.

“I'm just not in a place right now where I can give you an accurate description of what that's going to look like," he said.

The Pentagon budget also is taking a hit, although a coronavirus relief bill working its way through Congress would provide billions for the growing list of new expenses, including loans to industry that would enable accelerated production of medical equipment like ventilators and respiratory masks for civilian use.

Many of America's closest allies are waging their own COVID-19 battles, including Britain, Germany, Italy, France and other NATO partners, as well as South Korea, which hosts about 28,500 U.S. troops. At least temporarily, the pandemic has taken the edge off conflict in some of the globe's major flashpoints, such as Iran, as governments focus on fighting the disease inside their own borders.

Gen. Joseph Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau, which is accustomed to responding to single-event domestic natural disasters like a flood or hurricane, said the coronavirus outbreak is akin to having hurricanes of varying ferocity hit every U.S. state and territory, as well as the District of Columbia.

This is a historic event that will require a historic response,” Lengyel said.

The Guard has been mobilized by every state governor and in three territories. In Washington, California and New York the federal government is footing the bill. As of Wednesday, more
than 10,000 Guard members were on duty. The active-duty military also is helping, with three
tfield hospitals deploying to New York and Washington, and Navy hospital ships expected in
Los Angeles and New York.

The Guard is chipping in with a range of expertise, including what it calls weapons of mass
destruction teams that are helping set up drive-thru testing stations.

No U.S. military member is known to have died from COVID-19, although infections are
spreading.

Brig. Gen. Paul Friedrichs, the top doctor on the staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said
Wednesday it appears highly likely that the spread inside the military will continue. Over the
next three weeks, which he said is as far ahead as modeling data can reliably support a
forecast, “we think we’re going to see this — no surprise — continue to grow.” His comment
aligns with those of many others in the medical community and across the military, standing
in contrast to President Donald Trump's statements about starting to return the country to
normalcy by Easter.

As of Thursday, 280 of the 1.4 million-strong active duty force had been confirmed with the
disease, up from 51 a week earlier.

“Our curve is not flattening,” Friedrichs said.

The virus has penetrated the Pentagon, but with modest impact thus far as Esper and Milley
remain at work in the military headquarters. As a precaution, Esper and the deputy defense
secretary, David Norquist, are being kept physically separated. On Monday, the building's
health risk alert level was raised a notch, and on Wednesday Esper ordered the higher alert
level for all Defense Department sites worldwide.

In a virtual town hall meeting with Defense Department employees, Esper on Tuesday said
his top priority is protecting troops and their families, but he noted that the military cannot
function free of risk.

“You can't do social distancing in a submarine or even a tank,” he said.

Navy ships have stopped port visits abroad, except when resupply or maintenance requires it.
On Thursday the Navy said eight sailors aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt tested positive
after the aircraft carrier made a port visit in Vietnam. A short time later, officials said the
number was rising rapidly and was in the “dozens.” This was the first reported time the virus
has struck a warship at sea. The carrier was being diverted to Guam on Thursday, and all
5,000 aboard are to be tested. In general, the virus has been slower to disable a generally
younger and healthier military population.

Not every ounce of normalcy has drained from the military establishment, but many of the
problems and projects that dominated the defense scene just weeks ago have lost some of
their immediacy — the ongoing battles against the Islamic State group, the drawing down of
troops in Afghanistan, the stand-up of a Space Force, the grand plan for shifting the military's focus toward China.

This sudden shift has echoes of September 2001. One day before the terrorist attacks, then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was making a public pitch for combating bureaucratic waste in the Pentagon, a campaign that fell to the wayside as the nation geared up for war against al-Qaida and the Taliban.

Military commanders have been taking steps to protect and isolate key troops such as those on counterterrorism teams, security forces and air crews. Officials acknowledge growing concern about U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, where thousands of locals who had been in neighboring Iran have streamed back across borders.

So far, no U.S. service member in Iraq, Syria or Afghanistan is known to have tested positive for the virus, but a couple dozen have shown symptoms and are in isolation. Navy Capt. Bill Urban, spokesman for U.S. Central Command, said two U.S. sailors tested positive in Bahrain earlier this week. Across the Mideast, about 1,500 U.S. troops are in precautionary quarantine.

In Iraq, commanders have moved U.S.-led coalition troops off smaller bases and sent some out of the country after the Iraqi government suspended all military training.

Though little discussed in public, the U.S. has made significant adjustments to ensure that the nation's strategic nuclear forces — the bombers, submarines and land-based missiles that form the U.S. nuclear “triad” — remain at the ready. For example, airmen who operate and secure Minuteman 3 nuclear missiles on the Great Plains are doing longer tours in the missile fields and self-isolating afterward.

The Navy has paused some phases of initial training for its elite SEAL force. Navy Capt. Tamara Lawrence, a spokeswoman for Naval Special Warfare Command, said an eight-week pause is affecting three training sections. She said early training that pushes new candidates to the limit was paused because the extremely strenuous requirements can risk affecting their immune systems.

Lawrence said there is no current expectation that the pause will affect the Navy’s ability to fill its need for SEALs and the personnel who drive their boats.

The Army's specialized Green Berets are continuing field training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, although some classroom training has been shifted online.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death.

National Guard troops are deploying to help with coronavirus. Here’s what they’re doing. They’re helping with medical tests and cleaning public spaces, not imposing martial law.

Vox.com, March 24, 2020 ::

As the coronavirus continues to spread around the US, it’s possible you’ll see members of the National Guard come to your town.

From California to New York, Wisconsin to Texas, the National Guard is now active in all US states and territories to help local governments contend with the rise of Covid-19 cases.

If you see a National Guard member, it’s understandable if you do a double take: Seeing people in military uniforms driving in big military trucks and walking around your neighborhood can, at first glance, be a bit disquieting. But if the National Guard is working near you, that means the governor of your state thought it best for some of your neighbors to help civilian agencies respond to the crisis.

So if you have fears of impending martial law, the good news is that that’s not going to happen where you live or anywhere else around America. National Guard members are “our fellow citizens, not Imperial Stormtroopers,” said Kori Schake, an expert on civil-military relations at the American Enterprise Institute think tank in Washington.

What National Guard members are doing is not so scary. Among other things, they’re disinfecting public places, delivering food, and helping administer drive-through tests for Covid-19, the official name of the disease caused by the new coronavirus.

Working under the authority of a state’s governor, they’re providing personnel, vehicles, and other equipment to the response effort. In some cases, Guard members might be performing some law enforcement functions, but that’s always under the direction of the local police force.

Put together, the National Guard will be helping fill whatever gaps civilian leaders identify, not implementing a military takeover. “The National Guard is called up when local resources are insufficient to meet the need,” Lindsay Cohn, a Naval War College expert on the National Guard, told me.

What follows is a guide to what the National Guard can do and is doing to fight the coronavirus in the places the Guard is already deployed, and what that might mean for your hometown down the line.

Why use the National Guard during the coronavirus response?
Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, the National Guard chief, explained to reporters on March 19 why his force should be called on to help during the coronavirus outbreak.

“With Covid-19, it’s like we have 54 separate hurricanes in every state, territory, and the District of Columbia,” he said. “When disaster strikes, we don’t have to mobilize from some base. We pack a lunch, we go to work, because we are already there in the communities where these events are taking place. We live there, we can respond faster.”

That’s a critical point to understand: A state’s National Guard is made up of people from that state. National Guard members are farmers, coal miners, doctors, lawyers, teachers, postal workers, grocery store clerks, and more. On occasion, mainly weekends, they’ll train with their unit. Most of the time, though, those in the Guard are doing their day jobs.

“The National Guard comes from the community and knows the community,” Christine Wormuth, the Pentagon’s top policy official from 2014 to 2016, told me.

When there’s a crisis, like with coronavirus, the governor mobilizes the state National Guard to assist civilian agencies in their response. That means the person in charge of them when they’re called up is the governor — so an elected leader is still in charge, not the military. In rare instances, the president can federalize the Guard, putting it under his control along with that of the Defense Secretary. That, however, is done in only the rarest of cases.

Governors can also use what’s called the Emergency Management Assistance Compact if they feel they need more resources to address their state’s issues. In broad terms, it allows governors to request that another state send some of its National Guard members, police officers, firefighters, and other critical workers to help out.

So if there’s a major coronavirus outbreak in, say, California, while Wyoming has a lot fewer cases, the governor of California can ask that members of Wyoming’s National Guard be sent to California for a while to work under his or her direction.

As for what the National Guard can actually do, Retired Army Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, who served as the National Guard’s chief from 2003 to 2008, told me the force can do a lot of missions, but four in particular stick out:

Logistics

The personnel and vehicles at the Guard’s disposal — both on the ground and in the air — make it a big asset in a crisis. If, say, Michigan’s medical authorities are overwhelmed, the state’s National Guard can use its trucks and planes to deliver medication.

If people are struggling to get regular access to food, the same can be done to distribute pallets of emergency rations, usually normal food like rice or soup. And if hospitals get full, National Guard members can build new field hospitals or retrofit existing facilities like stadiums or hotels to take care of more patients.
Security

National Guard troops can help control crowds, ensure products get where they need to go, and support law enforcement if need be. In that last case, members would be working for local police leaders to provide more workforce, not taking the law into their own hands. Some members will be armed, depending on what they’re asked to do, but not all will be carrying weapons.

Communications and electricity

The National Guard has advanced communications systems — large radios, teleconferencing equipment, and more — so that leaders across local, state, and federal governments can stay in touch, even in the most remote areas.

One such system, called DIRECT, allows National Guard members to have access to cellular service even in disaster areas or when tons of people are trying to get online at once. That allows them to keep communications flowing in even the worst situations.

And should electricity be required quickly — say, during a power outage while severely infected patients are being treated — National Guard members can install and use generators to keep the lights on.

Medical assistance

The National Guard has physicians who can assist with the medical side of the coronavirus response. If some hospitals require more doctors to treat a growing flow of patients, the Guard could provide that assistance.

Even if physicians aren’t needed, National Guard members can help direct traffic at drive-through testing facilities, freeing up civilian medical staff to focus on the actual administration of the tests.

For all of these reasons, Blum says that seeing the National Guard in your town “ought to be a calming factor, not a cause for fear.”

Two examples of the current National Guard response

Democratic and Republican governors in every state and territory have called upon their National Guards to help with their coronavirus responses so far. Two of those missions in particular are useful examples of what the National Guard might do if it comes to your hometown in the coming weeks.

Let’s start with New York. Gov. Andrew Cuomo activated his state’s National Guard members on March 10 in order to create a “containment area” around New Rochelle, a suburb of New York City that has been majorly impacted by Covid-19.
According to the press release at the time, Cuomo authorized the Guard “to deliver food to homes and help with cleaning public spaces in the containment area.” That makes sense: New Rochelle has about 80,000 people in it, and it’d be really hard to ensure those inside the containment area would be adequately served by that city’s civilian government alone.

On March 12, about a half dozen National Guard members showed up inside the one-mile containment area and began unloading pallets of food — bags of rice, cans of cream of mushroom soup, and more. They took it to one of the city’s community centers for volunteers to then help sort out. The meals off that truck went to roughly 3,000 students who normally rely on school lunches for meals.

“It’s a relief in a sense that we are going to have food, that we are not going to do these deliveries alone,” Daniel Bonnet, the community center’s director, told the New York Times that day.

There are some worries that as cases rise in New York City, the food distribution network might collapse. It’s therefore no surprise that the National Guard is considered as an option to help deliver food to those stores and people who might need it.

In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis has mobilized his National Guard another way: He sent 500 troops to Broward County to help administer drive-through coronavirus tests. “Broward County right now in Florida is the epicenter of what we’re seeing, so we need to be here for our friends in Broward and turn the tide on this thing,” DeSantis told reporters on Thursday.

In the Broward County city of Pembroke Pines, for example, about 100 Guard members are working with the Memorial Healthcare System to operate five lanes of drive-through testing for eight hours a day. Combat medics in the National Guard are even conducting some of the tests themselves, working alongside local law enforcement and various state agencies that run that facility.

“We have qualified [service members] to get the mission done, so it just makes sense,” Staff Sgt. Patrick Salas of the Florida National Guard noted in a news release from the service on March 17. “A lot of [members] are in the medical industry on the civilian side, so they are just great resources.”

Those are just two examples of what the National Guard is doing now. But as the number of coronavirus cases grows and more National Guard troops are called up to assist with the crisis, questions will almost certainly arise about what, exactly, they’re legally allowed to do and not do, and about the authorities governors have in using them.

Deploying the National Guard is not the same thing as instituting martial law

You might have heard of “posse comitatus,” a longstanding law that bars the US military from being used to enforce domestic law in the country in most cases.
That law doesn’t apply to the National Guard when it’s operating under state authority, or if the president calls on it under federal authority to do things like quelling an unlawful domestic insurrection. Which means that National Guard troops can actually carry out domestic law enforcement operations, including arresting people.

But, experts note, that’s not likely to happen unless there’s a massive breakdown in societal order. “It’s politically not desirable, so governors don’t want to do that kind of thing,” the Naval War College’s Cohn told me.

We saw this happen in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Blum, who led National Guard members during the Hurricane Katrina response, noted that the New Orleans police force was decimated for about two years following that disaster. That required National Guard members to step in and serve as a temporary police force until local law enforcement officers got back on their feet.

One can imagine a similar situation taking place during the coronavirus outbreak — albeit on a much smaller scale — if, say, a large portion of a local police force becomes infected with the coronavirus and has to self-quarantine for 14 days or longer.

Members of the Maryland Army National Guard set up a triage tent in Silver Spring, Maryland, on March 19, 2020. Drew Angerer/Getty Images

Even if a state governor were to take such a step during the coronavirus crisis, though, it’s worth remembering that National Guard members would still be subordinate to the local police chiefs. They’d be augmenting the police presence and assisting with manpower shortfalls, not running things on their own.

And even if National Guard members were assisting with law enforcement, it’d be a far cry from the institution of martial law.

“Martial law is when civilian authority is incapacitated and cannot function,” Cohn told me, and a military officer is in control of the three functions of government (legislative, executive, and judicial).

The president, Congress, or a state’s governor (if the state’s constitution allows) can declare martial law and put a seasoned military officer in charge temporarily. That officer would have discretion over those three functions of government, but would still be working for civilian leaders.

But getting to that point would require a calamitous collapse of the country’s institutions, and we’re nowhere close to that happening.

The most likely eventuality — indeed, the one that’s happening right now — is that the National Guard might be in your neighborhood delivering food and medicine, conducting medical tests, providing medical care, and maybe sanitizing a table or two.
As Blum told me, if you see National Guard members in your area, “you ought to be reassured.”


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**Three Army field hospitals ordered to New York, Washington states**

*Military Times, March 23, 2020:*

Mar 27, 2020

**Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy has issued deployment orders to three Army hospital centers, the service said Tuesday afternoon.**

The orders will deploy the 531st Hospital from Fort Campbell, Kentucky; the 627th Hospital from Fort Carson, Colorado; and the 9th Hospital from Fort Hood, Texas, to deploy to New York and Washington states.

All of those units are active duty, an Army headquarters spokesperson said. The field hospitals could arrive at their destinations in as few as seven days or less, they added.

New York and Washington have been among the worst hit states thus far by the coronavirus pandemic. Washington has reported more than 2,000 cases, while New York’s numbers surpass 20,000, according to the Center for Disease Control.

On Monday, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said that Army field hospitals, which can have as many as 250 beds each, will likely be sent first to New York City and Seattle, two cities with hospital systems overwhelmed by the pandemic.

“Once that’s confirmed, we will look at sending to other places,” Esper said. “We will, of course, take our sourcing guidance from” the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the federal agency that coordinates disaster response plans.

There are other hospitals and expeditionary medical facilities across the other military services that could eventually be tapped, the defense secretary said.

Esper also said that a majority of medical professionals in field hospitals and hospital ships that could be called upon will come from the reserves components.

“The balance will likely come from active-duty military treatment facilities,” he added. “We’re very conscious, as we draw people to staff up the ships or the hospitals.”
A general surgeon and an orthopedic surgeon, both assigned 586th Field Hospital, go over a simulated patient’s information before performing a simulated surgery to repair a femur fracture. (Army)

The Army hospitals will bring with them a suite of facilities that amount to full hospital capability, Army headquarters said in its press release. Though they’re designed to be trauma hospitals, the units can also function as full-service medical facilities for all types of patients.

The hospitals come with intensive-care-unit beds, immediate-care beds, operating rooms, an emergency department, X-ray technology and pharmacies.

The Army’s deployments come after it was announced that the Navy hospital ship USNS Comfort will deploy to New York within two weeks to assist overcrowded hospitals there.

Esper noted that deployed units will be working with FEMA and the CDC during their stateside missions, but cautioned that the U.S. military will have to retain assets for internal needs.

“We only have so much capacity to begin with because again, at the end of the day, we have to protect our mission capabilities,” Esper said Monday. “There’s going to be a limit to what we can provide if we want to safeguard our military capability."

The Pentagon has also tasked the Army Corps of Engineers to retrofit hotels and other facilities into medical clinics and the National Guard chief has stated that he expects tens of thousands of Guard personnel to ultimately be called upon during the public health crisis.


NY National Guard supports hospitals with tents for treatment

Army.mil, By Col. Richard Goldenberg | New York National Guard March 23, 2020:

PEEKSKILL, N.Y. – The New York National Guard helped hospitals across the state establish dedicated space for an expected influx of patients showing symptoms of COVID-19.

As of Monday, 20,875 people in New York have tested positive for the coronavirus - more than 12,000 of them in New York City.

The Westchester County Office of Emergency Management provided nine of 10 county disaster response tents to local hospitals, with National Guard Soldiers providing support to put them in place March 18-20.
"With all you guys here, we can just bang it out quick," said Jim Sheridan, a retired Westchester firefighter supporting the county emergency management office in delivering and placing the tents.

Soldiers on site had already performed a variety of missions in and around New Rochelle. Pvt. Cindy Ganesh, assigned to the 369th Sustainment Brigade Headquarters, distributed food and hand sanitizer to communities hit by the outbreak and put up tents at sampling sites.

"We're all in this together," Ganesh said, "so it's good to be working on different missions."

With repetition, the Soldiers and firefighters made quick work of the tent mission at the New York-Presbyterian-Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor.

"Twenty-two minutes, that's a new record, even for us," Sheridan said. "Goes to show how fast this goes when we all work together."

The New York National Guard has more than 1,600 service members operating in six task forces across the state. That number continues to grow as missions expand the Guard's support to local government.

https://www.army.mil/article/233909/ny_national_guard_supports_hospitals_with_tents_for_treatment

Army plans to turn NYC hotel, dorm rooms into coronavirus hospitals

NY Post, March 22, 2020:

New York’s beleaguered hotel industry is getting drafted to help out in the disease outbreak that threatens its very survival.

The US Army Corps of Engineers has plans to take over as many as 10,000 hotel rooms, college dormitories and other spaces in New York for medical services as the number of coronavirus hospitalizations rises exponentially, the Wall Street Journal reported.

With hotels practically empty — the 1,878-room Hilton Midtown is completely shut down — the city’s hospitality business has been hammered by the virus-driven halt in tourism, events and conventions. The drop-off for hotels is worse than after 9/11 or during the 2008 financial crisis, operators say.

Dorms across the city are also largely empty, after students were sent packing when the schools moved to online-only instruction. In an email, NYU asked dorm residents to clean out
their belongings by Sunday because “there are significant indications that the state” will fill the rooms with hospital beds.

The Army Corps would contract with any hotels, colleges and possibly even empty sports arenas, Army Corps Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite said at a briefing.

“We would then take the building over in a period of an exceptionally short amount of days, and we would go in and turn this into an ICU-like facility,” he said.


New York Army National Guard

Latest Guard update: More than 11,400 troops mobilized for COVID-19 response

Military Times, March 26, 2020 ::

There are now more than 11,400 Guard troops mobilized in the effort to cope with the coronavirus pandemic, officials said Thursday afternoon.

Governors across all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Washington D.C. have each mobilized components of their Army and Air National Guard to assist in their state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, eight states have now approved the use of Dual-Status Commanders, giving them the authority to command active and reserve component troops under control of a state’s governor. As a governors’ response to the coronavirus pandemic continues to evolve, so does the Guard response.

“Americans should know the National Guard has their backs throughout this crisis. We’re in this together, and we’ll get through this together,” said Gen. Joseph Lengyel, Chief of the National Guard Bureau.

Sunday night, President Donald Trump ordered Guard troops in New York, California and Washington be placed under Title 32 status, meaning states maintain control, but the federal government picks up the tab.

Lengyel told reporters Sunday night that he expects more governors to seek that status, as it helps speed up the mobilization process and provides better benefits for the troops.

Current National Guard COVID-19 response missions include, but are not limited to:
Delivering food in hard-hit communities;

*Manning call centers to be a knowledgeable and calming voice;

*Providing critical Personal Protective Equipment training and sample collection to first responders and hospital personnel;

*Supporting local emergency management agencies with response planning and execution;

*Providing support to testing facilities;

*Serving as response liaisons and support to state Emergency Operations Centers;

*Proving transportation and assessment support to healthcare providers;

*Assisting with disinfecting/cleaning of common public spaces;

*Collecting and delivering samples.

In addition, Guard missions also include Weapons of Mass Destruction - Civil Support Teams (WMD-CSTs), Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) training and sample collection; response planners; support to medical testing facilities; response liaisons and support to state Emergency Operations Centers; support to healthcare professionals - assessments, transportation; logistics support; assisting with disinfecting/cleaning of common public spaces; providing transportation support for health care providers; collecting and delivering samples; and assisting with sample administration.

“We expect multiple states to use their WMD-CSTs to assist in sample collection, donning and doffing PPE techniques and decontamination techniques,” said Lt. Col. Jennifer Cope, Chief, National Guard Bureau Weapons of Mass Destruction Program Office.

The National Guard Bureau (NGB) on the federal level assists in “synchronization” and planning between the states, and their coordination center is a “24/7 operation working at increased capacity in anticipation of COVID-19 requirements,” the bureau said.

“This COVID-19 pandemic is a historic event and it requires a historic response from the National Guard,” said Air Force Gen. Joseph Lengyel, National Guard Bureau chief. “My number one priority is taking care of our National Guard Soldiers, Airmen and their families. The readiness of our force will be critical to the success of this nation’s COVID-19 response efforts.”

Despite the growing number of activated Guard components, during a Tuesday press conference, Secretary of Defense Mark Esper did not commit to federalizing the Guardsmen, instead opting to support governors in their individual responses.
“As we get requests in, we will look at activating, if we need to, at the federal level or using the Reserves, whatever the case may be. We want to be very supportive with regard to our prioritization in terms of supporting the American people and the governors,” Esper said. “Right now, we are really focused on Guard and Reserve — in that order. There hasn’t been a need yet, a request, for active duty. So we will take these requests in due time.”

**Florida**

The Florida National Guard has 1,482 Guard men and women activated in support of COVID-19, according to 1st Lt. Tahisha Coleman, a spokeswoman. They continue to support the state’s COVID-19 response through operational support of Community Based Testing Sites (CBTS), augmentation to airport screening measures, statewide logistics support, coordination, planning and operational mission sets. To date, the Florida National Guard has assisted in the testing of over 7,200 individuals for the COVID-19 virus. Another state supported CBTS is projected for Tamiami in the next couple days, there will be more information to follow.

The Florida National Guard has been asked to augment local law enforcement and airport authorities in application of the Governor’s order to conduct screening on passengers inbound from Calif, Wash., N.Y. and N.J. at major airports. Screenings are being conducted at airports in Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Tampa, Orlando, and Jacksonville. These missions will support the Governor’s recent travel ban guidance in an attempt to significantly reduce the number of infected individuals entering the State from areas with a high amount of community spread.

They have activated medical professionals, Army Combat Medic Specialists, and Air Force Medical Technicians in support of the Florida Department of Health’s CBTS Guardsmen have reported in and formed Task Force Medical.

Florida Guard personnel have been activated to augment the State Logistics Readiness Center (SLRC), the State’s Logistics Branch, as well as facilitate statewide logistics needs of the Florida National Guard formations on mission. They provide support to the SLRC remains at 24-hour-a-day operations. The Florida National Guard logistics professionals continue to support the State’s Logistics Branch in order to maintain visibility on both State and Federal commodities better enabling Guard mission support.

The Florida National Guard has activated Guardsmen to augment the State Emergency Operations Center and local emergency management offices across the state.

**Iowa**

Approximately 40 Soldiers from the 67th Troop Command, based in Iowa City, were activated on March 26 to augment the state’s COVID-19 response in eastern Iowa.

Soldiers assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment of the 67th Troop Command established an operations and planning cell at the Iowa City Readiness Center to
analyze, prepare and coordinate Iowa National Guard support to county, state and federal agencies responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in the eastern half of the state.

In addition to activating these additional Soldiers, the Iowa National Guard continues to support the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to ensure delivery of in demand medical supplies. Soldiers delivered approximately 66 pallets to 23 county distribution centers, Thursday. These pallets contained medical personal protective equipment used by healthcare workers to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Iowa National Guard has delivered nearly 140 pallets of protective equipment to 55 counties across the state since these distribution missions began on March 24.

There are now more than 90 soldiers and airmen on duty supporting a variety of COVID-19 response missions across the state.

New York

The New York National Guard now has 2,200 personnel on mission across the state, according to Col. Richard Goldenberg, a spokesman. This includes members of the New York Army and Air National Guard, the New York Guard (State Defense Force), and the New York Naval Militia.

Six Joint Task Forces are operating on Long Island, New York City, the Hudson Valley, Capital Region, Syracuse and Buffalo to support state and local governments.

The New York National Guard is supporting the administration and reception of FEMA field hospitals in support of the State Department of Health and New York City officials at the Jacob Javits Center in Manhattan.

Soldiers are assisting with the reception and inventory of the infrastructure in the convention center’s 1.8-million-square feet of space. Governor Andrew Cuomo said yesterday that setting up the four 250-bed field hospitals at the site would take about a week to 10 days. The National Guard Soldiers will be supporting the 320 federal staff arriving to operate the site.

The New York National Guard continues to support six drive-thru testing sites today on Long Island, Staten Island, and the Bronx and in Rockland and Westchester counties. Testing is arranged by reservations made through the Department of Health.

New York National Guard personnel are continuing to support food packaging in New Rochelle. Also in New Rochelle, Soldiers continue to support the city’s cleaning of public spaces. On March 26, they are expected to complete the cleaning of the Beth El Synagogue.

New York Soldiers and Airmen are also conducting logistics missions in support of the state response, including warehousing support and bulk distribution at five sites. Hand sanitizer warehousing and deliveries continue today across the lower Hudson Valley.
Support to local agencies for food distribution continues in Westchester County and New York City at nine locations.

This story will continue to be updated as the National Guard Bureau releases daily reports on National Guard activities nationwide. If you or someone you know has been called up to State Active Duty status, please contact Military Times managing editor Howard Altman, haltman@militarytimes.com, if you are interested in sharing about your experience.


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